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YSGOL IOLO PUPILS LEARN HOW TO BE FILM CRITICS

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg pupils have been getting their notepads out and trying their hand at being film critics – see how they got on inside on page 7.

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Political parties divide over Cardiff Airport

by PHILIP IRWIN

AFTER the announcement last week that the Welsh Government is to buy Cardiff Airport for £52 million, discussion is now turning to whether the price was right, and whether the cash could have been used elsewhere.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said that £52 million was a lot of money, which could have built six primary schools or three or four secondary schools.

However, Vale AM Jane Hutt was adamant that the deal would be good for Wales – and for the Vale.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Readers' Letters

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'Police Commissioners should be criticised' says Councillor

I WAS interested to read two letters in The GEM calling me "cynical" for criticising the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

So let's get to the bottom of this:

Would your readers prefer a back office of 10 or more for the PCC, or more bobbies on the beat?

How much will this new system save the taxpayer?

I have asked over 50 people why they did not vote and they asked me this:

What difference will the new PCC make? (While answering this, perhaps your letter writers will tell us why there was a low turn out for this election).

If PCC candidates are not politicised, why did they stand under their political banners?

The most appalling aspect of the letters was the fact I was criticised for not voting!

Why should someone vote for something they do not believe in?

My final point is, why does Alun Michael really need both a deputy and an assistant? Mr Michael was once a Home Office Minster, so he should know how the police operate.

In my view, councillors should not be criticised for wanting to save the taxpayer money.

After all, the new PCC has already started with a massive seven per cent increase for us.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry.

WHY DELAY ISLAND ROAD?

I CANNOT understand the thinking of those in charge of the improvements on the Waterfront, as they don't seem in any hurry to get that road to Barry Island started!

If, as it is hoped, there will be an increase in trade in the foreseeable future, that road should be a priority.

With more supermarkets expected on the Waterfront, it surely justifies forward planning.

With the upgrading of Barry Island there will be even more traffic using the causeway and if (?) we have a good summer, there could be congestion on more than one occasion.

I always feel sorry for those people I see carrying shopping-bags through the Waterfront as they make their way home to the Island, especially when the weather is bad and it is getting dark!

Mrs DE Coombes Herridge Barry

Power of the printed word

THANK YOU to The GEM, which has again proved that it can stir the Vale Council to action.

After publishing my 'pothole' letter on March 21, the following Monday – just four days later – saw the council workers return to Aberystwyth Crescent in Barry to repair and replace two kerbstones and paving stones, marked previously by 'yellow pen man' and missed by the previous council visitation.

This illustrates, yet again, the power of the printed word, even in this digital age - thank you; and to the council too, for a rapid response.

Christopher Short Barry

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'YEARS BEFORE AIRPORT WILL MAKE A PROFIT'

CAN the Welsh taxpayer afford to subsidise Cardiff Airport?

When I heard that the Welsh Government was interested in taking over the airport I was amazed. When it was confirmed this week, that Welsh taxpayers now own the airport, I was flabbergasted.

We paid £52million, and it doesn't stop there – we will have to pay a 'management company' to run it.

Is it making a profit? No, it is losing money. The customer numbers have reduced over the last few years, from two million to one million.

The Welsh Government tells us that they can integrate the airport into its wider economic strategy and boost prospects for all that use it.

This is the sort of statement that should be related to the NHS.

We are also told by the media that half the NHS Trusts in Wales are losing millions this year.

This cash, of course, could go to rescue these trusts, so that they can improve patient care, etc.

At some stage the Welsh Government is going to tell us that they will be spending more millions on access to the airport from the motorway.

It doesn't stop there I'm sure. To be honest, it is going to take years for Cardiff Airport to make a profit, whoever is running it.

Anthony Allen Llantwit Major

'Bus service and the Bay area'

I WONDER how many Barry, Penarth, Dinas Powys, Sully readers, and other Vale residents, are feeling deprived by the lack of a bus service from their towns to Cardiff Bay and other developments in the Bay area.

The population of these named places alone, amounts to about 90,000.

The services in Cardiff Bay and surrounds are about 80 in number, comprising shops, offices, banks, cafés, restaurants, cinemas, opera house, exhibitions, chemists, supermarkets and even river boat trips.

Access to this area from places in the Vale can be obtained by bus services, but this means a change of bus and a double fare.

Surely the Vale population merits the ability to have a meal and a drink without the need to park a car, or to have to nominate one driver not to drink; or to be able to see a film or opera or show, and have a meal afterwards before going home. What do GEM readers think?

Brian Stephens, Penarth

Re-usable rubbish bags

I WOULD like to make a suggestion to the Vale Council to introduce a black re-usable bag, similar to the green and blue recycling bags, for small amounts of domestic waste.

It might save us buying black bags. No, the black bags were not 'free', we paid for them out of our high council tax.

P Hill, Barry

ALL HANDS TO FLYING STATIONS!

Did you serve on board any of the light fleet carriers, HMS Bulwark, HMS Albion, or HMS Centaur? The HMS Bulwark Albion Centaur Association is open to anyone who served at any time on these ships.

We send a magazine three times per year and run events including AGM/socials, sea trips with HMS Bulwark and anniversary commemorations at home and abroad.

While our Home Port is Portsmouth, last year we were at the Hilton Hotel, Blackpool, for the AGM/social. This year we will be at the Royal Beach, Southsea, on Saturday, May 11.

We also sponsor sea cadets from our affiliated Sea Cadet Corps on three training ships – one sail two motor. Membership is £8 per annum.

Leigh Easton, Glenmoray, Hayford Pl, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK7 9JX or email at *ngsfo@tiscali.co.uk or visit our website at: www.bulwarkassoc.co.uk*

'DECISIONS ON AIRPORT'S FUTURE ARE CRITICAL'

IT is important that crucial parts of the Welsh infrastructure, such as our national airport, are properly managed for the benefit of the wider Welsh economy.

However, Cardiff Airport has struggled and played little role in improving the Welsh economy in recent years – especially since the downturn.

The Welsh Government takeover of the airport has the potential to be positive, but, as Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood made clear when speaking on this in the National Assembly, the ownership doesn't matter if those in charge aren't travelling in the right direction.

Cardiff Airport needs more resources for route development, further investigation into joint funding to improve facilities, to concentrate on attracting business customers and foreign companies who bring money to Wales, and on developing a long-term strategy rather than grabbing a quick fix headline.

More than 1,000 jobs in Wales depend on Cardiff Airport, most of them local jobs. It is therefore vital for those jobs that the airport is a success.

For us in the Vale, a successful airport and expansion of aviation experience is an important part of our local economy.

We have a great opportunity here which must not be wasted by poor decision making.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry

'Why produce fridge magnets?'

I APPRECIATE that the Vale Council needs to save money – hence no more free black bags – but how much did it cost to produce fridge magnets which are too small to read anyway?

S Jones, Cowbridge

'Thank you for kind donation'

WE would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to the anonymous donor who very kindly gave us money to send to the Good Life Orphanage in Mombasa, Kenya.

What a lovely gesture!

For anyone interested in learning more about this wonderful orphanage and the people involved, please go to their website: *www.the goodlifeorphanage.com.*

We guarantee that all donations go straight to the orphanage and the children there receive the best care and education possible.

There is also video footage which can be viewed via YouTube.

Colm and Sue O'Shea, Llantwit Major

Cat raises £3,000 for charity on desert trek

Cat and Linzi on their trek across the Sahara

A CARDIFF and Vale College complementary therapy lecturer and co-ordinator, Cat Hillier, has raised £3,150 for the British Heart Foundation, by trekking across the Sahara desert.

Cat wanted to do something for the foundation after BHF cared for her mother when she was diagnosed with a genetic form of heart failure. She braved the desert heat with sister-in-law Linzi Obradovic.

"After six long, hot days and endless sand dunes, we managed to trek a distance of 77 miles – I have the blisters to prove it!" Cat said. "The days were hot and the evenings were dark and cold. The temperature in the day reached 43 degrees and the evening was as low as -2." she reported.

"I can definitely say that trekking in the desert in sand storms, heat and no toilet facilities is a very interesting experience – and one that I will take away with me for ever."

The trek was part of a series of charitable events that Cat has organised which have included selling cakes to her students and a charity meal in the Glamorgan Suite, the college's restaurant.

While Cat has raised £3,150, she has not yet reached her target of £3,500. If anyone would like to make a donation, contact *catherinehilliier@hotmail.com*

CHARITY DINNER

LAST year's performance was sold out, but Puccini and Prosecco are back in Cowbridge for an Italian-themed dinner, with artists from Welsh National Opera in the Bear Hotel on Monday, July 1, at 7pm.

Tickets are £29, proceeds to Welsh Hearts Charity. To book, contact the Bear Hotel on 01446 774814, Sharon Owen on 07730 944700, or email fundraising@welshhearts.org.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	00.59	8.2	13.46	7.9
05 Fri	02.27	8.1	15.14	8.0
06 Sat	03.49	8.3	16.25	8.4
07 Sun	04.52	8.8	17.22	9.0
08 Mon	05.45	9.3	18.08	9.2
09 Tues	06.31	9.6	18.57	9.7
10 Wed	07.14	9.8	19.34	9.7
11 Thur	07.52	9.8	20.08	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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Pupils dress up for last chapter on World Book Day at Llanfair

Llanfair Primary School pupils had a fun time dressing up for World Book Day. "The year-6 children wore costumes – we had all sorts of outfits representing their favourite books, there was Sherlock Holmes, the Billion Dollar Man, Matilda, and many more. This is the last year the children will be dressing up for World Book Day as in September they will be starting in their new comprehensive schools," said a spokeswoman. SHELLEY ROWLAND

Airport sale gets mixed response

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She argued that now the airport could be integrated into Wales' wider economic strategy, and that it could boost prospects for tourism, businesses and the aviation industry.

She pointed, in particular, to possibilities for growth at the British Airways Maintenance Centre, and also said that it could help the St Athan and Cardiff Enterprise Zone.

Mr Cairns, however, was more sceptical. He said: "There is a clear inconsistency from the Welsh Government.

"Two weeks ago, they were calling for more capital funds from the treasury for construction projects to kickstart the economy. Now, they are tying up £52million in an existing asset."

He stressed that he was keen to see the airport prosper, saying: "I wouldn't have chosen this course but we need to do all possible to attract international airlines.

"I will do everything possible to support the airport. Most areas of aviation policy are not devolved, so I would hope that they put party politics aside to ensure we get the best deal for passengers."

Plaid Cymru's Ian Johnston, in a letter to The GEM (*see page 2*) said: "Cardiff Airport needs more resources for route development, further investigation into joint funding to improve facilities, to concentrate on attracting business customers and foreign companies who bring money to Wales, and on developing a long-term strategy rather than grabbing a quick fix headline."

Jane Hutt insisted that the Welsh Government was doing the right thing.

She said: "Airports in public ownership across the UK, such as Manchester and the Highlands and Islands, are very successful.

"Managed with commercial expertise, they are making a real difference to their local and regional economies."

The Welsh Government will not be taking on the management of the airport, but will look to put in an experience airport operating company.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, branded the plan as "1970-style nationalisation" and said: "What we need to see is proper investment in establishing the kind of routes that will attract passengers, and in properly promoting Wales as a tourist destination to the rest of the world.

"Grand socialist schemes like this are just a distraction from the real work that needs to be done."

Scheme that helps farmers diversify receives more cash

A SCHEME designed to help farmers in the rural Vale diversify into new areas has further grant aid on offer.

An additional £215,000 is now available for farming families, through Creative Rural Communities (CRC), the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative.

Following on from the 'Pride in Our Farming Families' scheme in 2011, CRC has been awarded additional funding from the Welsh Government to extend the scheme.

Nia Hollins, senior rural regeneration officer at CRC, said: "Pride in our Farming Families was established to encourage local farmers to find long term solutions that will allow them to continue farming through subsidising the farm's income in alternative ways.

"We've received a diverse range of applications for funding in the past and are now looking for new ideas for projects which will add to the visitor appeal of the Vale and help generate or safeguard jobs."

Coun Lis Burnett, the Vale Council cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, said: "This is great news for the rural economy of the Vale. The additional funding will allow Creative Rural Communities to build on the excellent work it has done to date working with farmers to diversify and increase their offer for both local residents and tourists."

Applicants are invited to apply if they wish to introduce a new, non-agricultural activity to their farm.

They must demonstrate that it will boost the income to the farm, as well as generate or sustain jobs. The funding is available until December 2014.

The deadline for applications is May 31, 2013. For further information contact: Nia Hollins on 01446 775388 or email nhollins@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Projects that have previously received grants under CRC's Pride in our Farming Families programme include Hendrewennol Fruit Farm, where new facilities including a tea room and farm shop were created.

Another example was Sue Bater, who set up an equine rug wash and repair service and handed over the reins to her 19-year-old daughter, Alyson, after receiving a £6,000 grant.

Hospital petition: April 7, deadline

LLANTWIT MAJOR Town Council has been co-ordinating a petition regarding fears that specialist services at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend may be downgraded or withdrawn.

Local health boards stress that no final decisions have been made on any future reorganisation of services.

At last Thursday's meeting of the full Llantwit Town Council, it was decided to close the petition down from Sunday, April 7.

Councillors discussed the next step in the process of delivering the petition to the new Welsh Government Health Minister, Mark Drakeford AM, at the Senedd in Cardiff.

Councillors agreed the Town Council should contact the Health Minister's office and arrange a suitable time in the near future for that petition to be delivered personally to him.

Several councillors commented on how important it was for the minister to understand the deep concern expressed by local residents in Llantwit Major at any proposals to remove services from the Princess of Wales Hospital.

A spokesman for the council said: "The Town Council would like to ask anyone who still has petition forms to return them to the Town Hall by Sunday, April 7.

"If anyone still wishes to sign the petition then it is currently available in the Town Hall during office hours for signing."

Miri Mieri garden springs into action

TRANSITION Llantwit's family garden, Miri Mieri (near Llantonian Hall) has seen some changes during the winter.

On Sunday, April 7, the group will be at the garden to sow seeds and plant potatoes, between 10.30am and 12.30pm. If the weather is bad, there's some under-cover space in front of the nearby tennis pavilion.

A spokeswoman said: "We have plenty of seeds, and loads of pots, so you are welcome to take some home to grow on a sunny window-sill. You can bring the seedlings back to carry on growing at Miri Mieri, or keep them for your garden. We should also have a few spare seed-potatoes."

Old clothes are recommended. The session is free of charge, though donations are always appreciated! Enquiries: 07804 624795.

ANNIE PAINE

Ed's legacy lives on with annual walk

THERE was a great turn-out for the Ed Evans Walk at Monknash on Easter Monday.

The walk remembers Marcross resident Ed, who died in 2007, but prior to his death set up a foundation which raises funds for cancer and brain tumour research.

His mum Sue told The GEM: "Despite the cold weather 233 people turned out for the Ed Evans Foundation annual walk which took place along the heritage coast from Monknash Cwm.

"The short walk was six miles and went as far as St Donats wood and back across the fields.

"The 12 mile walk was to Llantwit Major old town and back.

"In total we all walked 1,180 miles – this mileage will be added to the International Brain Tumour Alliance's World Walk target of circling the earth.

"Similar walks are taking place all over the world throughout 2013."

Sue explained that funds raised on Easter Monday would be targeted on those coping with brain tumours.

"The money raised by the foundation from this event will go towards our commitment to help fund the new development coordinator that has recently been appointed to Wales who will help to support patients and their families and to promote brain tumour research and awareness.

"Further information can be obtained by contacting the foundation."

Sue added: "Again, we would like to thank everyone who braved the cold and supported us. Many thanks to The Plough and Harrow for their continued support."

For photos of the day by Glyn Evans, please turn to page 4.

Theatre puts on crime thriller

A TAUT thriller, *The Business Of Murder*, will be at Cowbridge's Market Theatre (the official home of CADS, the Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society) on April 10 – 13 (Wednesday to Saturday).

This is the annual spring play produced by CADS and its first play this year. The cast and director are made up of local residents, including Rachel Arentsen from last year's *Dangerous Corner*, and Jeff Grist.

A spokeswoman said: "Theatre fans from Cowbridge and beyond are urged to support the theatre. Doors open at 7pm, leaving time for drinks at the bar before the curtain goes up at 7.30pm." Tickets cost £6.50 from WG Davies Newsagents, 38 High Street, or on the door.

To join CADS or find out more about the Theatre, visit www.market-theatre.com or telephone the CADS chairman on 01446 679732.

CADS is holding club nights on May 10 and June 14, where potential new members and supporters can meet the existing crew. CADS is currently seeking more members to take part on stage and behind the scenes.

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ANNUAL ED EVANS CHARITY WALK FIGHTS THE CHILLY WEATHER TO BE A SUCCESS

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' pictures, the biting chill of the weather was no match for the spirits of 233 hardy walkers who took part in the annual Ed Evans charity walk.

Strong case for local cattle markets

by Coun Nicola Thomas, Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian.

I AM afraid I have had a bad time since the last article, first with the herd throwing up a 'TB reactor' in one of my store steers, during our recent TB test on the farm.

Devastation is too mild a word to describe how we feel to be told you have a TB reactor after 20 years of clean herd status, not to mention the 120-day standstill on all trading on or off the holding, which will impact on the business financially.

The steer in question was purchased outside the Vale last August. Although still not confirmed, the animal 'has TB' until it has been slaughtered and a post mortem examination is carried out.

I think this just highlights the problems that all farmers face in having to travel such long distances to buy and sell their stock.

This makes the case even stronger for much needed, better, local markets and marketing facilities, within a 10-15 miles maximum radius of one's holding.

We are never going to stop the spread of infectious diseases across the country – not until the powers that be realise that closing down the smaller local markets has been a huge mistake.

It means additional food miles, increased fuel consumption, additional air pollution as a result, and stress to the animals themselves.

Currently, farmers are forced to travel outside of a clean health area, in our case, travelling 50-70 miles, with Brecon, Sennybridge or Abergavenny our closest cattle markets, into areas where pockets of disease are already established, to purchase our replacement stock to bring back to areas of clean health status.

A second severe bout of the dreaded virus and chest infections going around has made life very difficult for me, forcing me to send my apologies to more events in my mayoral calendar. For those I have let down, I apologise with all my heart and I will be in touch to make amends.

The cows on the farm, having no regard to the consequences of a TB reactor on the premises, or the ailments of the human race, have decided to meet the spring with a flurry of new calves, making four new calves in the last two weeks, with three more lined up in the maternity ward awaiting their turn.

So pullers and ropes at the ready, I walk the boards at night, with fingers crossed. I have only had to help one mum so far, the rest have proved to be stalwart birthing machines and managed alone, one of the better of the many excellent breed traits of the British Gelbvieh.

It seems my last article sparked some flames when I referred to the lack of support in the community from the bigger chain stores refusing to join the local Chamber of Trade.

I was contacted by ITV Wales and asked to do an interview about 'The High Street'. Not a good move, I decided!

The aim in my last article was to encourage the chain stores to join in and be a part of the town for their benefit as much as anyone else. It was not to start a war between businesses in the town.

So I declined to take part on the basis that my position as mayor is to promote, encourage and help all businesses, big or small, for the benefit of Cowbridge.

However, I do hope that my article will help the bigger chain stores in the town to take another look at the benefits for themselves, as well as the smaller high street stores, in becoming a more integral part of the Cowbridge business community.

Some great news that Rob McGee of Creative Rural Communities is aiming to set up a scheme of more than 14 allotments in Cowbridge for the keen and enthusiastic gardeners among us.

A brilliant scheme, and if you are interested in putting your gardening skills to the test by taking on an allotment, then do contact Rob on 01446 704835 as soon as possible.

It seems that names of interested parties are needed now to procure the necessary funding to get the scheme up and running, so if an allotment is your dream – this is your golden opportunity.

Another great initiative to keep Cowbridge green, healthy and, above all, full of community spirit – thank you, Rob.

New vocal group meets

A COWBRIDGE choir, formed six months ago, is starting rehearsals and welcomes new members.

The Cowbridge Natural Voice Singing Group describes itself as "a group of local people coming together to make friends, relax and have fun with singing using all sorts of different styles of harmony and rhythms."

The songs are an eclectic mix, ranging from folk to world music, spirituals to traditional welsh songs.

Celia Webb, the group leader, qualified as a natural voice practitioner in the late 1990s and has led a natural voice group in Cardiff, The Local Vocals, for 15 years and sings with an acapella group, A Fanfare of Strumpets.

She said: "There is no need to read music, or have any singing experience. There is no judging or auditions.

"The idea is not to create a choir, but collectively create a fantastic group sound.

"Communities always used to sing together in times gone by; it is a very satisfying experience and besides, I love Cowbridge and wanted an excuse to come here more often!"

The Cowbridge Natural Voice Singing Group begins a new term on April 9. Sessions take place on Tuesdays, 12 noon to 1.30pm upstairs in the Little Shop of Calm.

Further details can be obtained by telephone on 07904 337301.

Art Society's next meeting

ON Thursday, April 18, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Abergavenny artist Helen Langford, who will give a demonstration of painting a landscape with acrylics (*www.helenlangfordartist.co.uk*).

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm – 9pm. Visitors are most welcome. For full programme see *www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.*

The society is also holding an exhibition and sale of members' work at the Swansea Grand Theatre, from Tuesday, April 9 to Friday, April 26.

Vale resident in pothole plea to the Vale Council

by TIM CHAPMAN

A VALE resident says urgent action is needed to repair potholes and damage on the Aberthaw to Aubrey Arms road – or better still, a complete resurfacing.

Mr Sam Smith said he is concerned that potholes on the Aberthaw to Aubrey Arms road, and on the road down to the village of Llanbethery, might cause damage to people's tyres.

Mr Sam Smith, well known in the local area as the owner of Sam Smith Travel, makes the daily journey from the village of Llanbethery to the A48, on his way to Cowbridge, but says the trip is becoming something of an assault course.

He told The GEM: "Drivers are having to take evasive action along the road due to damage to the sides of it and because of the potholes. Some patching up has been tried but this has now eroded.

"The road conditions on the approach to Llanbethery, caused by a combination of pot holes, road degradation and an enormous amount of mud and chippings washed onto the road by recent storms, are making the approach to the village something of an assault course.

"The road has been in this condition for weeks and remains untouched.

"The road to the Aubrey Arms is now frankly very dangerous, with large holes along many of the verges, and in the carriageway, which cause vehicles to either swerve or face damaging their wheels."

Although the road is situated in the Vale's picturesque countryside, Mr Smith said it takes a real pounding.

He explained that it is used by heavy tractors, farm machinery, and heavy lorries on their way to and from Aberthaw Power Station and the cement works.

It is also used by commuters on their way to Cowbridge, Bridgend and Cardiff.

Mr Smith believes that current, major work at Sycamore Cross is a "waste of money", and would have been better spent on resurfacing the Aberthaw-Aubrey Arms road.

He said it was disappointing for local villagers in the Vale to see such a huge project on their doorstep when they were having to endure poor road surfaces.

Coun Jeff James confirmed that Mr Smith had raised issues over road conditions with him on a number of occasions, and told The GEM: "I have diligently reported each and every complaint to the highways section with some success.

"I know that the 'Big Fill initiative means that Rhoose ward will have its chance to receive intensive repairs.

"However, I am aware that some of the roads are deteriorating beyond just filling pot holes, and minor resurfacing is not going to address the kind of damage that Mr Smith describes.

"I have previously asked Mr Loosemore, highways maintenance manager, to investigate the poor state of the road from Pancross to the Aubrey Arms junction."

Coun James emphasised that money used at Sycamore Cross could not be used elsewhere, because that money had come in the form of a grant to the council for that particular purpose.

The Vale Council pointed out that the road was regularly inspected.

A spokeswoman said: "The road leading from the A48 at the Aubrey Arms to the B4265 at Aberthaw is inspected four times a year in accordance with the highway maintenance management code of practice, during which highway defects liable to compromise the safety of the public are identified and categorised for repair.

"A number of repairs have recently been carried out along this section of road and localised resurfacing works are also planned in the coming months, funded by the local government borrowing initiative."

The spokeswoman added: "The improvement works on the A48 Sycamore Cross were funded by the Welsh Government as part of their National Transport Delivery Plan for 2012/13 and cannot be transferred to highway maintenance schemes."

Fraudster must repay cash after Proceeds of Crime Act hearing

by AJ SICLUNA

A FORMER electrical engineer who defrauded his employers, Bridgend County Borough Council, has been ordered to pay £1,500 after a Proceeds of Crime Act hearing at Cardiff Crown Court.

Prosecutor Heath Edwards said 53-year-old Stephen Day had benefited to the tune of £19,115 but the only amount available was £1,500.

Day was given six months to pay and in default will go to prison for 34 days.

Day, of Lougher, Swansea, had admitted a charge of fraud by falsely claiming he had HND electrical engineering qualifications.

He had also been convicted of ordering equipment on behalf of the council for his own benefit, and stealing a sound mixing desk belonging to the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel.

He was jailed for 15 months.

When the case was heard, Mr Edwards said that Day had been employed by the council but when applying for the post he lied, by claiming he had obtained an electrical engineering qualification.

"Day knew at the time that an HND qualification in electrical engineering was essential for the post.

"During the time of his employment, he was paid a total salary of £125,765.

"During his employment, he was repeatedly asked to attend courses to update his training but always made an excuse not to attend or simply did not go."

He said that in addition to obtaining the job by fraud, Day used his position to purchase items on behalf of the council which were in fact then used by him for his own personal enrichment.

Added Mr Edwards; "He was spending taxpayers' money as if it was his own."

Suspicion first fell on Day in April 2011 when Mr Mark Evans, a council employee, saw an invoice for the installation of a webcam at a registry office.

The invoice seemed too expensive for such equipment and it later transpired that two expensive camcorders had been ordered, supposedly for installation at that venue when in fact, a far cheaper camera was installed but was not fit for purpose.

Mr Edwards said that when Day resigned, an audit was carried out and it was discovered that Day had made a number of purchases supposedly on behalf of the council for important projects to improve the lifestyle of those living within the council's boundaries but were re-directed either directly to Day or to companies with whom he had links, and from whom he stood to make a financial gain.

These interests included Day working as a freelance media production engineer and running a Tank Driving experience called "All Tanked Up".

Tabletop sale and market

THERE will be a table top sale in Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall in aid of hall funds on Saturday, April 13, 10am–12 noon.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome. To book a table or for further details contact Pat on 01446 760267, tables are available at £5.

This event is run alongside the usual village market, which is held on the second Saturday of every month in the hall, 10am–12 noon, selling homemade cakes, preserves, produce, plants and a very extensive collection of books.

Freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee and teas are served. All proceeds go towards the improvement and maintenance of the hall.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Young at Heart

ON Thursday of last week (March 28), members of the Young at Heart Club deserted the hall and travelled the short distance to Kenfig for lunch at the Prince of Wales Inn.

Landlord, Gareth Maund, gave an interesting talk on the history of the inn, which dates back to the 15th century.

Its location within the ancient borough of Kenfig is both of historical and commercial value to the locality throughout the ages.

Previously called 'Ty Newydd Tavern', it was renamed in its present form during the late 18th century in honour of George, Prince of Wales, who, in 1820, was crowned George IV.

The area overlooks the buried city of Kenfig, engulfed in the ever-shifting sands of the 13th century, but now a magnificent pool situated in the midst of fabulous dunes.

The upstairs room at the Prince of Wales Inn was the guild hall, now known as the town hall, and is accessed via an external stairway to the main building.

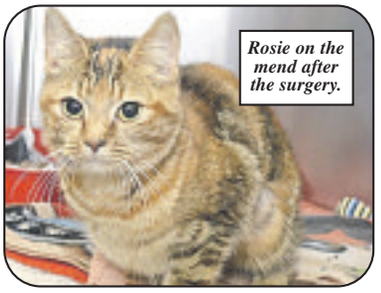
The long room has been in continuous usage for centuries and it was within this very room that the burgesses exercised their rights granted by the Kenfig Charters.

My thanks to Gareth Maund and his assistants for a most enjoyable visit and to the three club stalwarts, Anne, Marje and Barbara. Thank you.

Saron Chapel

THIS year's Easter service was well attended with a happy atmosphere, conducted by the Rev Richard Roberts.

Cat centre team are cheering on Rosie - the brave little fighter



Rosie on the mend after the surgery.

ABOVE: Rosie is looking weak before her operation. (Photographs by Sue Dobbs).

THE plight of a young cat, Rosie, has touched the hearts of local cat lovers – and donations have poured in to pay for a life-saving operation.

The Bryncethin Cats Adoption centre manager Sue Dobbs explained: "Rosie was admitted to the centre as an eight-month-old cat on March 17.

"It was apparent that something was seriously wrong as she weighed 1.2 kg, the same weight as 12-week-old kitten. She was admitted to the vet after developing breathing problem and after X-Rays, was diagnosed with a diaphragmatic hernia.

"This is a defect or hole in the diaphragm, the sheet of muscle which separates the chest and abdominal cavities."

Rosie's only chance of survival was an urgent life-saving operation to repair the hole – an operation which was life threatening, and the vet was not sure if she would pull through.

However, Rosie had touched the staff's hearts and Sue said: "We all believed she was deserving of this life line, as she is a real sweetheart and, despite her obvious discomfort, we could see she was a real fighter.

"The cost of the operation was around £500. Times are hard at the moment and we desperately needed to raise the money for the operation, so we launched Rosie's appeal.

"Members of the public could donate either on Rosie's just giving page *www.justgiving.com/rosieappeal*, by text, or by post.

"We posted Rosie's story on our Facebook page and were little prepared for the amazing response.

"Over £1,200 was donated in just 12 hours; the total amount donated is more than £1,650, with money still coming in. The generosity of the public meant that Rosie's operation could go ahead and other cats in desperate need could be helped as well."

The chances of Rosie's surviving the operation were stacked against her. She was in very poor condition and had been kept on oxygen to see her through the previous night.

Clive Kemeys, partner director at Shepherds the Vets, who operated on Rosie said, "Her colon, small intestine and spleen were all in her chest cavity. It's surprising she survived this long".

Sue Dobbs said: "I went to see Rosie the day after the operation, I was astounded at the difference in her.

"She had transformed from a cat who could barely lift her head up and open her eyes, to a bright eyed, alert cat who was purring and attempting to play with her drip. Rosie still has a long way to go to but her odds of her survival are increasing with every day which passes.

"The fact that she is still alive today is a testimony to the overwhelming generosity of the public."

She added: "The team at the centre have been uplifted by the support from the public for Rosie and the centre as a whole.

"Everyone who has heard about Rosie is keeping their finger, toes and whiskers crossed that she will go on to make a full recovery."

Local man jailed for failing to do community work

by AJ SICLUNA

A VALE man who failed to observe conditions of a suspended sentence order has been jailed for six months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jonathan Lake, 24, of Caerau Close, Barry, had received a suspended sentence at a hearing at Cardiff Crown Court for an offence of wounding. He had also been ordered to carry out 300 hours unpaid work.

Judge Michael Burr told him: "You have admitted the third breach of the original order. You were no doubt given warnings of strict compliance.

"To your credit, you made a great effort to comply but from February this year, you simply disengaged with the authorities and neglected your responsibility.

"The only possible consequence is to bring into operation the terms of the order."

Prosecutor Jeffrey Jones said Lake had missed six appointments with the probation service.

The circumstances of the wounding he said, were that on August 6, 2011, he attacked a friend, Stefan Smith, in Barry.

The two had a row and Lake armed himself with two knives.

Mr Jones said one of the weapons was "stuck" into the chest of Mr Smith.

Initially Lake claimed he was acting in self-defence but later accepted he had been reckless.

Defence solicitor Adam Sharpe said Mr Smith didn't make a complaint and it was Blake's first offence of violence.

For a time, he said, he had been homeless but now cares for a sick relative.

"He had made a considerable effort to comply with the order but he fell and suffered chronic back pain which made him unfit for work.

"This was a genuine issue but he didn't convey this explanation to the probation service."

He said Blake was in a stable relationship and the assault was an isolated offence.

"I acknowledge he is in a precarious position but to send him to prison would be a disaster."

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Jumble Sale

Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club is holding a top drawer jumble sale on Saturday, April 13, in Llancarfan Community Hall. Doors open 1.30pm and proceeds go to the Wales Air Ambulance and local charities.

First open garden

THE first garden opening for the National Gardens Scheme is well known for its spring bulbs and thousands of bluebells.

Slade Garden, just above the beach at Southerndown, is an unexpected gem with masses of spring flowers.

The terraced lawns, mature specimen trees, living willow arbors, rose and clematis pergola, orchard and herbaceous borders, create a very natural garden that also has extensive views over the Bristol Channel.

Opening dates and times: Saturday and Sunday, April 13/14, 2pm–4pm. Cost £4, children free. Tea and cakes are available.

Cowbridge friendship club news

IT was an Easter Bunny parade, not forgetting the Easter chicks of course, at the March meeting of the Cowbridge Friendship Club.

It arrived just in time for members, who were each given two Easter eggs, and from these were given the opportunity to make both a pink Easter bunny and a chick.

There were bunnies with pointed ears, drooping ears, chicks with large wings or large orange feet, and one enterprising member even managed to make a cockerel.

Time went by very rapidly, so it was a quick tea before it was time for members to be taken home, armed with their works of art which could well be given to their grandchildren or great grandchildren, or perhaps if they had a sweet tooth, eaten by themselves!

Meetings are on the last Thursday of every month, when we have a variety of activities, so if you or someone you know would like to join, please telephone 01656 668446 to find out more.

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Glories of Dyffryn House are on show once again

The gardens are looking very good – despite the cold spring!

A detail from one of the spectacular ceilings.

A striking stained glass window.

Some rooms have been painted by students from Swansea University.

Another detail from one of the Dyffryn House ceilings.

THE National Trust is now in charge at Dyffryn House and Gardens, and the first fruits of this new arrangement was apparent last week when the interior of the mansion was opened to the public for the first time in years.

A real feature of this new tourist attraction is sure to be the spectacular ceilings – now fully restored. In fact, bean bags are provided so that visitors can relax, lie back, and take in the spectacular view. (See story at foot of page).

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Local pupils become film critics!

PUPILS at a Cowbridge school are being taught to be film reviewers in a new scheme designed to improve their literacy skills.

Year-5 and year-6 pupils from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg have been practicing their review writing and critical thinking skills with help from a familiar face, Daniel Glyn, at a workshop hosted by the education charity FILMCLUB Cymru.

Daniel Glyn is a familiar voice on the C2 service on Radio Cymru, where he's interviewed more than 400 Welsh celebrities.

He also performs bilingual stand-up comedy, and recently appeared on S4C interviewing the *Spiderman* and *Notting Hill* star Rhys Ifans in *Prosiect: Rhys Ifans*.

With the support of Literature Wales, the session included a discussion about the popular book *The Iron Giant*.

Headmaster Dylan Evans says: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to further develop their awareness of the link between film and literature.

"Anything that encourages children to develop a love of reading and writing is a good thing, so we welcome the support from FILMCLUB Cymru – it is much appreciated."

FILMCLUB Cymru is funded by the Welsh Government and its main partner, the Film Agency for Wales.

It is a scheme that helps schools set up and run clubs for teachers and pupils to watch, discuss and review a diverse range of films.

Ambassadors for the scheme include Michael Sheen and Owen Sheers.

For information about FILMCLUB or to sign up for a free start-up session visit filmclub.org/blog/cymru or call 020 7288 4520.

Citizenship award is worthy accolade for author Horace

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE recent Bridgend County Borough Mayor's citizenship award ceremony in the Civic Offices included one remarkable story – that of a Bridgend man who started writing his first book at the age of 90!

Horace Drake was one of the proud recipients who received an award from Coun Marlene Thomas, in his case for writing *Once Upon a Time in Aberkenfig*, the story of his own life and times.

Horace told The GEM that the idea had come from his own family. He said: "My son said: 'Dad, you have so many stories to tell, you should put them into a book'."

It became a family affair. Horace's son, James, runs a business publishing scientific journals, and he had the books printed at his own expense.

There were dozens of family photos to include, and Horace's daughter-in-law stepped forward with illustrations to fill any gaps.

There was some work for Horace to do. He still had to write it!

The result is a book that looks very different from the typical self-published effort. *Once Upon a Time in Aberkenfig* looks a real quality hardback and what's more, it has no actual cover price.

All Horace asks is that a donation should be given to Alzheimer's Research – to counter the medical condition that claimed his wife of 60 years, Gwyneth.

And really, this book is a combined elegy and love letter to Gwyneth. They married in 1950 and celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2010, the year she died.

It was in that year that Horace started writing the book.

However, although they were married at the age of 30, they had met at the age of 16, in 1936, and it was love at first sight.

The war intervened. Some couples married in haste, but Horace and Gwyneth decided to wait. It means that Gwyneth was the focus of Horace's life for 77 of his 93 years, and it is very much their story.

ABOVE: Horace Drake, pictured with his book, and with his wedding day photograph.
PHOTO by MANDY THOMAS
(www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk).

Horace has a great memory for the details of his life. He was born in Tondu and grew up in Aberkenfig.

His home there was one of three cottages in "the middle of nowhere". He said: "There was no running water, just the river and a spring in the next field."

To this day, the house is called 'Drake's Cottage'.

His years growing up are chronicled in detail. He was a promising rugby player, as was his brother, but some dispute between Bridgend RFC and Ogmore Vale seems to have hindered his progress.

He joined the railways and, when war came, he was called up to work on trains supplying the war effort.

He was posted first to Iraq and Persia (now Iran), and then found himself supporting the Allies as they advanced through Italy.

After the war, he was demobbed and returned to working on the railways, where he stayed for the rest of his working life, becoming an engine driver.

In that capacity, he once had the honour of driving the Royal train when the Queen visited south Wales!

It is fair to say that the growing up section, and the war memoirs, take up the bulk of the book. Horace comes across as a modest man who does not feel comfortable talking about himself.

The rest of the book focuses on family life, and his obvious pride in his children and, in turn, their children.

His sense of family shines through the book and, given the help he has received from his family, the feeling is clearly reciprocal!

Once Upon a Time in Aberkenfig is available from Horace Drake, who can be contacted on 01656 645072

Bridge club results

RESULTS for Cowbridge and District (Llanbleddian) Bridge Club Tuesday, March 26:

First, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 72.22 per cent; second, Hugh Williams and Pauline Lane 54.86 per cent; third, Brian Swain and Myrtle Hansard 53.47 per cent; fourth, Glenda Roberts and Amy Owen 51.39 per cent.

ME

Introducing Dyffryn House

ON Wednesday, April 10, 10am – 12pm, an event has been organised for members of the Vale of Glamorgan Association and any National Trust members.

The morning will give members the opportunity to meet Dyffryn staff and fellow members, learn about the house restoration project and receive a private tour around the recently restored Edwardian mansion.

Booking is essential. Contact Roanna at Roanna.Larsen@nationaltrust.org.uk or on 07554 112474.

Ab Fab fun day for animal welfare

AN Absolutely Fabulous Family Fun Day will take place at Cowbridge Leisure Centre from 11am to 4pm on April 21.

Among the charity stalls with be Friends of the Animals.

There will be craft and beauty stalls, vegan food, restaurants and cafes selling hot and cold savoury items, and cakes.

A children's Alice in Wonderland Fancy Dress will be held (£2 entry) with prizes, and proceeds going to Hillside Animal Sanctuary.

There will also be free car parking.

Jane Hutt and Hannah Fitt of SAFE Foundation at the AGM

Vale AM finds out how Barry charity is working in the Third World

THE Barry-based SAFE Foundation has made impressive progress in reaching out to communities across the developing world, supporting small scale projects with imagination, skill and respect for the needs and views of beneficiaries.

This was clear at their recent AGM, held at the Wharf in Cardiff Bay, attended by Vale AM Jane Hutt, with displays and reports on their pioneering work presented by Hannah Fitt.

SAFE is reaching out for new supporters and members as it take its work forward across the world involving young people in Wales.

The Foundation was founded by twin sisters from Barry, Lucy Dickenson and Hannah Fitt. Lucy Dickenson, who was tragically killed in a car accident in Zambia last year, is featured in the new Barry Women's Trail, which was launched on International Women's Day by the Vale Council in memory of outstanding women of Barry.

Abi (eight) is splashing out for Marie Curie charity!

WITH only four weeks left to enter Swimathon 2013, Marie Curie Cancer Care is encouraging local people to sign up for the world's biggest fundraising swim.

Swimathon hits over 615 pools across the UK between April 26-28. Funds raised by Swimathon will help support Marie Curie nurses who provide free nursing care to people with terminal illnesses, in the place of their choice.

Abi Mai Alice Fox, who is just eight years old, has signed up for a session at Barry pool and has so far raised an amazing £1,120 .

Her father Mike, said: "Eight weeks ago, Abi picked up a flyer for the Swimathon 2013 and asked if she could do it for Marie Curie.

"I glanced at the details and noted that the minimum distance to qualify was 1.5km and said to Abi that I thought it was a little too far for an eight year old. She was upset.

"Later that week, her swimming lesson was confined to getting distance swimming badges and Abi was going for her 800m badge. At 800m, Abi was stopped by her instructor. Amidst applause from a proud dad and grandparents, she pushed her goggles off her face, gave me the thumbs up and asked her instructor if she could do more.

"Not only did she get her 800m badge, she then sailed through her 1,000m badge, smashed her 1,500m badge and finally finished on the 1,600m (one mile) badge, to applause from everybody watching from the gallery and her instructor.

"After changing and a well-earned treat, she said: "Dad, can I now do the Swimathon for Marie Curie? Wow, I did not see that one coming!

"As you can see, Abi is tenacious and our motto of 'I can do anything and anything is possible' really does mean something to her," he added.

Karen Jones, fundraising manager at the Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale, said: "Last year, swimmers took part across a number of pools in south Wales and together raised a brilliant £16,742 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. We hope to raise even more in 2013, and want to let people know it's not too late to sign up and take part."

Swimathon participants can choose from the 5k, 2.5k or 1.5k individual challenges, or take on Swimathon as part of a team in the Team 5k or Team 1.5k distance challenges.

It is open to all ages and abilities and provides a great form of exercise, which can help to relax the mind and body and also build endurance, muscle strength and cardio-vascular fitness.

Entries are open until April 24, at www.swimathon.org. For more information about Marie Curie Cancer Care, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk

Abi Fox is tackling the swimathon.

Atlantic College students' talents put to good cause

PEOPLE in the Vale are familiar with the presence of students at the United World College, Atlantic College, but don't have many opportunities to see their talents.

On March 24, the AC students organised an elegant evening of entertainment in the magnificent Bradenstoke Hall in the college.

As the title implies, this was a classical recital played by students from several countries. The pieces varied from the classics to modern.

All were well-rehearsed and beautifully performed by the students.

There were performances on the violin, guitar, cello and harp. The 'sister act' by Emma and Naomi Woo was a triumph.

Emma Woo from Canada is no stranger to Vale music lovers because she performed at the Vale Music Festival last year.

This year, the Bradenstoke Hall audience was treated to a performance by her sister Naomi, who has just graduated in music from Yale University.

Admission was free, but donations were collected in aid of CBM (the Overseas Disability Charity). This year the students have raised over £230 for CBM.

The enthusiastic, able leaders are Lilit Grigoryan (Armenia) and Mohammad Fakhoury (Jordan). They also were our comperes for the evening.

Every week a group of students meet to discuss disability issues; exploring ways of raising awareness about these issues as well as to fundraise for CBM.

Students also ran a stall to raise funds at the St Donat's Christmas Fair.

CBM is committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and those at risk from disability. It works in around 70 of the poorest countries of the world reaching more than 25 million people each year.

If you would like to volunteer your time to this worthy cause contact Lee Searle, the volunteer manager for CBM UK on 02920 444062 or e-mail lees@cbmuk.org.uk; or go to www.cbmuk.org.uk.

I am also available to give talks on the work of CBM to schools, churches or other organisations catering from children to adults. If you are interested in a talk, email me at: *sian.tesni@cbm.org.*

SIAN TESNI

Clodagh strikes gold in council's Christmas card competition

AMONG pupils from 30 Vale schools who collected used Christmas cards for the council's annual recycling competition, Clodagh McKechnie from Stanwell School collected 7,250 cards to win a £100 gift card.

Clodagh McKechnie.

Robbie Hawkins from St David's Church in Wales Primary School clinched the silver £75 prize with an awesome 6,030 cards, while Ceri Jauncey from St Illtyd Primary School secured third place.

Mike Farrell, headteacher at Ysgol Erw'r Delyn in Penarth, was delighted to hear of his school's success in the schools category.

"We're thrilled to win the £100 first prize in the schools category for the second year," he said. "We're a small school of 50 pupils, yet thanks to fabulous community support our total of over 11,000 cards averages out at 225 cards per pupil."

St Illtyd Primary School in Llantwit Major scooped second place and £75, while Murch Junior School came in third with their total averaging out at just short of 100 cards collected by each pupil.

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Vale Foodbank hands out 3,000th parcel

RIGHT: Foodbank organiser Susan Lloyd Selby, Barry Rotary club president John Shapland, and Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword, with some of the supplies donated for Easter.

AS the Vale Foodbank passed the milestone of handing out its 3,000th parcel of food after only 18 months of operation, it was visited by the Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword.

The mayor was accompanied by members of Barry Rotary Club, who were handing over their monthly donation of food – including some extras for those unfortunate enough to be needing support over the Easter period.

The mayor praised the Foodbank's work and the dedication of all the volunteers involved, and thanked the Rotary Club for supporting a valuable local service. He said that in times of stress, local hardship needed to come first.

Carl Kerr, speaking on behalf of the Rotary Club, said that support for the Foodbank would not be possible without the money raised from the annual fireworks.

Through the mayor, he especially thanked the town council who are currently major sponsors. Without this, together with the invaluable help of the Vale Council, the donations to the Foodbank and other local charities would not be possible.

The organiser of the Vale Foodbank, Susan Lloyd-Selby, said it was inspiring for the team to be involved in such a worthwhile activity.

She was expecting that the welfare changes now coming into effect would put more demand on the Foodbank, and thanked both the Rotary Club and the town council for supporting their work.

Robin Pitcher

Penarth Ramblers enjoy Bonvilston countryside

NOVICES Alison and Louise did themselves proud on their first walk for the group through the lovely countryside around Bonvilston.

Eleven walkers and Megan the black Labrador joined them mid-week in the car park of the Red Lion in Bonvilston and, leaving the noisy A48 behind, they entered fields near the 15th tee of Cottrell Park Golf Club before following a road leading to Peterston-super-Ely.

Crossing a stile, ahead of them lay the ruins of an old piggery, signified by the outline of a pig's head high up on the side of the building, but around them a low mist hung over the surrounding countryside.

Following a well-signed footpath diversion around a fenced field, the group exited onto a road to eventually reach Caerwigau Isaf where, in the 12th century, fertile land at Caerwigau was acquired by the Norman family of the de Bonvils.

Some land was rented out to the Knights Hospitaller, who in turn rented it to the monks of Margam, who may have lived in a moated site nearby in a wood. An old manor house was founded there during Tudor times and today Caerwigau is a Grade II listed building.

Morning coffee was enjoyed in the shelter of a small dell with a brook running through, with huge clumps of snowdrops adorning the banks under the green mossy-coated trees.

A very tall three-stepped stile was crossed on the way to Warren Mill Animal Farm, which is set in 40 acres and where the old farmhouse, originally a corn mill, stands beside the old millpond, where a boat in the shape of a massive swan was moored.

A muddy forestry track led them on through a field containing new lambs and, entering wide paths through a forestry plantation where the different varieties of trees were marked by wooden signs, they reached Maerdy Newydd Farm, where they spotted geese.

The resident young dogs were delighted to give the group and Meg a welcome and, having followed them up the lane, had to be rescued by their owners. A group of timid Alpacas were grazing in a nearby field as the group journeyed on through fields, eventually stopping to enjoy lunch with buzzards circling above them.

Exiting across the A48 from Lower Greenway Farm, they passed a field containing Jacob's sheep with their lambs, and near Liege Manor some inquisitive horses. At Ty'n y Coed Farm the group crossed a stream in a delightful green valley and headed back across fields to re-cross the A48 for a drink at the Red Lion, and a chance to thank the landlord for permitting the use of his car park.

Thanks are extended to all the walk leaders who have contributed to the new spring/summer programme with some favourite walks and many brilliant new ones, including two 20-mile hikes in celebration of the groups 20th birthday year. All we need now is some better weather!

On April 6, meet 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile hard walk at Patrishow in the Black Mountains; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On April 9, meet 8am at Cogan for a 14-mile linear walk from Pontypool to Abergavenny, returning to the start by bus; contact William on 01446 747239.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com.

Joy Strangward

PACT MEETINGS

DYFAN PACT at North Walk Community Centre, North Walk, Barry, on Sunday, April 28, at 7pm.

CASTLELAND PACT at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, April 29, at 7pm.

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY PACT at Pendoylan School, on Thursday, April 11, at 7.45pm.

COWBRIDGE PACT at Cowbridge Fire Station, on Monday, April 15 at 7pm.

St AUGUSTINES PACT at The Windsor Public House, Windsor Road, Penarth, on Wednesday, April 17, at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT at St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road, on Monday, April 22, at 7pm.

AM's Surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding a surgery on Friday, April 5, at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, between 1pm and 2pm.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Councillor's surgery

COUN Philip Clarke (independent) is holding a surgery in the Stewart Road Community Centre (side room), 10am – 12 noon on April 6.

During this period, there is a consultation morning in the main building where residents will be able to provide feedback on amenities they would like to see in Rhoose.

Jumble Sale

1ST Dinas Powys Scout Group Jumble Sale starts at 1.30pm on Saturday, April 6, at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission is 50p.

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DYFFRYN HOUSE is now able to be viewed by visitors along with its famous gardens.

Work is ongoing at one of the jewels in the Vale. Visitors to the house are even able to view the spectacular ceilings (see below) using bean bags!

PC lines up for Wales in 53rd police dog trials

SOUTH Wales Police are hosting the 53rd National Police Dog Trials from Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, at Margam Country Park.

Swansea based PC Kevin Hughes and police dog Zeena won the competition last year, and the defending champions will be representing Wales on home ground alongside PC Ian Hemburrow and police dog Roxy from Bridgend.

A total of 21 top police dogs and their handlers from Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will compete – seven each day at Margam Park – where they will tackle phase three of the competition.

The phase three section at Margam Country Park is open to the public daily from 10am – 5pm.

Each phase tests the police dogs and handlers in situations they are likely to experience in an operational environment, but phase one and two are not open to the public.

COWBRIDGE UNDER-12S RUN RIOT AT ABERCWMBOI RFC

COWBRIDGE under-12s travelled to Abercwmboi for the first meeting for a couple of seasons, with just 15 players.

The game started well for Cowbridge, when their pack pushed the Abercwmboi scrum off the ball for number 8 Ruben Williams to pick up and score under the posts. Ioan Williams converted.

Cowbridge were moving the ball from one side of the pitch to the other, dragging the Abercwmboi defence with them. After six phases, full-back Tom Humphreys found himself with an easy run in unopposed.

Even the forwards were getting into the act of free flowing rugby, with powerful runs by Jack Little and Luke Conner. Quick recycled ball allowed outside-half Evan Thomas to feed second row Jack Dixon, lurking out on the touch line.

With the try line in touching distance, Dixon unselfishly gave a simple pass to Barny Langton-Cryer to score in the corner, making it Abercwmboi 0 – Cowbridge 17.

Not to be out done, the forwards began to get into the try scoring mode, with Luke Conner powering over the line with a couple of defenders on his back. Ioan Williams converted.

Cowbridge continued to play some great running rugby. With the defence struggling to cover the ground, scrum-half Ioan Williams produced a couple of dummies and a strong hand off to score an individual try. R Williams converted.

Following another scrum against the head, Benji Williams scored his first try of the season for the under-12s, after stepping up from the under-11s. Ioan Williams converted.

Centre Harry Ridge made a great catch from a clearing kick and quick recycled ball allowed Evan Thomas, to walk in. Ioan Williams converted. The half-time score was Abercwmboi 0 – Cowbridge 45.

After a scrappy first 10 minutes Cowbridge finally broke through after the backs put Ruben Williams in the clear.

The final try came again from a great solo effort by Ioan Williams, who threw a couple of dummies and found himself clear.

With no covering defence, he scored the game's final try, at which point the referee called the game to a close. **Abercwmboi 0 – Cowbridge 55.**

GJ

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ST CYRES SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS YOUNG AWARD WINNERS' EFFORTS!

IN the last school week before Easter, St Cyres School held its annual awards evening to celebrate the efforts, achievements and progress of pupils in years 7 – 10.

A school spokesman said: "This is always a very important day in the St Cyres School calendar because it gives staff and governors the opportunity to reward many of the pupils of whom we are so proud.

"It is always a very difficult process to select the winners, as so many of our pupils make us proud on a daily basis."

This year there were 37 award winners and the categories ranged from sporting and music awards to prizes for academic achievement and progress.

There were also several special awards, including the David Davies Award for Endeavour, the Friends of St Cyres Award for the most inspirational pupil, and the Governors' Award for the most improved pupil.

The school is always grateful for the generosity of local businesses and others who sponsor some of the awards. This year, sponsors included JM Textiles, Leadbitter, CAVMS and Glen Cleaning.

We were particularly pleased to recieve a very generous donation from a former pupil, Jonathan Crocker, who donated an award for excellence in the STEM Subjects.

Jonathan is now working in London for a very prestigious financial institution and he typifies the St Cyres ethos – he is a success but remembers his roots and wants to give something back.

Our many special guests, including school governors and staff, Vale of Glamorgan councillors and the Penarth Town Mayor, Coun Philip Rapier, were entertained on the evening by some of the musical talent of our school.

Felix Peterken wowed the audience with his saxophone jazz performance of Benny Golson's 'Five Spot after Dark', Ellis Hopkins played Bach's 'Air' masterfully on the piano and Emily Thorne produced an exceptional performance on the violin, playing Vivaldi's 'Concerto in A Minor'.

The regional managing director of Leadbitter, the construction company building our new school, Mr Bob Bradley, was our guest speaker this year and provided pupils with some sage advice for ensuring the bright futures of which they are capable.

Sasha Winton receiving the David Davies Award from the Penarth Mayor, Coun Philip Rapier.

AWARD WINNERS

The Governors' Award: *Nadine Ismail;*
The Friends Award: *Kora Blair*;
David Davies Award: *Sasha Winton*;
Contribution to the School Community: *Sannan Iqbal;* Contribution to Charity and Community: *Rebecca Cummings;* Literacy Award : *Mark Masangkay*;

Outstanding progress

Year-7 (JM Textiles): *Euan Mackay*;
Year-7 (JM Textiles): *Hannah Lewis*;
Year-8 (Leadbitter) : *Sophie Burman*;
Year-9 (Leadbitter): *Matthew Jackson*;
Year-10 (Glen Cleaning): *Shauna-Leigh Ellis*;

Sports awards

Sporting achievement: *Evie Brown*; Sporting achievement: *Molly Owen-Ffoulkes*; Sporting achievement: *Finlay Davies*; Sporting achievement: *James Head*;

Musical achievements:

John Leach Award for Extra-Curricular Activities: *Felix Peterken*; Contribution to Performance in School: *Rebekah West*; Most Promising Musician: *Lauren Jagger*; Most Improved Musician: *Daniel Parfitt*.

Departmental awards:

Mathematics: *Zakariya Hassan*; English: *Eleni Harfoot;* Science: *Jack Pickford*; Art: *Carys Inker*; Business Studies: *Daniel Lock*; Geography: *Amy Morgan;* History: *Rachel Prew*; ICT: *Aaron Davies*; MFL: *Autumn Boswell*; Music: *Ellis Hopkins*; PE: *Nawaf Saleh*;Performing Arts: *Coby Smith;* Photography: *Beth Langford*; RE: *Marion Podesta*; Technology: *Matthew Wright;* Welsh : *Millie Baston*; Welsh Baccalaureate: *Sihaam Arwo*; STEM Subjects: *Jiggy Rodriguez.*

Euan Mackay receives the JM Textiles Award for Outstanding Progress in year-7.

Kora Blair collects the Friends of St Cyres Award for Inspiration to Others from the Chair of the Friends, Mrs Jackie Pile.

Jiggy Rodriguez receives the STEM Award from St Cyres head girl, Eloise Johnson.

Mark Masangkay receives the Literacy Award from LRC Manager, Mrs. Johnson.

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GETHIN'S DESPAIR TURNS TO JOY...

Cochlear implant team celebrates centenary success

LEFT: From left to right: Alan Gibbon, audiologist; Gethin Williams, 100th cochlear implant patient; Ann Stanton, Gethin's mum; and Carol Llewellyn, hearing therapist.

A 21-year-old chef who lost his hearing two years ago has become the 100th patient to have his hearing restored using a cochlear implant.

At first Gethin Williams, from Cefn Glas, started to suffer from tinnitus (a ringing in the ear), before developing profound deafness.

He tried using ordinary hearing aids, but found he still wasn't able to hear. So he was referred to the cochlear implant team at the Princess of Wales Hospital to see if he was suitable for the device.

Gethin's treatment was successful, with his hearing now almost perfect.

"Losing my hearing had a huge impact on my life.

"I turned into a hermit. I couldn't socialise with my friends, or do simple things like go out for a meal or to the cinema.

"If I did go anywhere, my mum had to come with me just in case anyone tried to talk to me. I couldn't work and I had to sell my car.

"Since having the implant, I can hear everything; I don't struggle at all.

"The difference is amazing, and I feel as though everything has gone back to normal.

"Within a few weeks of the implant I had a new job, and I've just bought a new car.

"Even simple things such as hearing how much something costs in a shop has helped to boost my confidence.

"The team are absolutely fantastic and really supportive. I couldn't have asked them for more."

Alan Gibbon, audiologist at the Princess of Wales Hospital, added: "It is fantastic to see how well Gethin is progressing, especially as it has only been a few months since his surgery.

"The level of success differs from patient to patient, and they will always be classed as having a hearing loss.

"However, all patients should be able to have a normal conversation, and their outcomes are better than with hearing aids."

A cochlear implant is placed under the skin behind the ear, and uses a small electrode to connect it to the cochlea (the part of the ear which hears).

When it picks up a noise or sound, it uses an electrical impulse to stimulate the cochlea to hear it.

Before they are accepted for a cochlear implant, a patient is assessed by every member of the team, which includes consultant surgeons, hearing therapists, audiologists and speech and language therapists.

As it is major surgery, the team need to be sure the patient is prepared and would benefit from the procedure.

The cochlear implant team at the Princess of Wales Hospital are one of only three in Wales.

They treat patients of all ages from Bridgend to Aberystwyth and some parts of mid-Wales.

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Police plea over missing man

Ceri Stokes.

POLICE are appealing to the public for information on the whereabouts of 30-year-old Ceri Stokes, from Guthrie Street in Barry who is wanted for breach of bail conditions and failing to appear at court.

He is said to be white, 5ft 10ins tall, with short brown hair and brown eyes. He is known to have strong connections with the Barry and Penarth areas.

LOCAL PRE-SCHOOL'S GREAT EASTER FUN DAY

COLWINSTON Pre-school had a "fantastic Easter Fun Day" on Monday, and raised over £500 with an Easter bonnet competition, Easter crafts, an Easter egg hunt and a suprise visit from the Easter Bunny himself. The children had a fabulous time!

Pictures by Gemma Griffiths Photography

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Theatre school in *Cats* anniversary celebration

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with an outstanding performance of the world-renowned musical at the NIA, Birmingham.

Andrew Lloyd Webber invited the company to stage it, and gave permission for the extensive arena production, in which 3,000 young performers, from Stagecoach schools, nationally and internationally, took part.

Of those performers, 101 were local children from Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge.

Jonathan and Charlotte, the operatic duo of *Britain's Got Talent* fame, opened the show with an emotional performance to the star-studded crowd of 12,000!

Charlotte has been a Stagecoach student for more than 11 years.

Veronica Bennetts, director of education for Stagecoach, said: "We are so proud of each and every one of our 3,000 students who took part in our anniversary celebrations."

Peter Brayshaw, the vice-president of operations at The Really Useful Group Limited, attended the show and declared it "A triumph!".

Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge are now enrolling for the summer term and holiday workshops. Call Helene or Rob on 01446 781454 for further information.

ABOVE:
Four of the Stagecoach students who took featured roles in the production.

BARRY SCHOOL GROUP'S NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of 'AIAITH', former pupils of Ysgol Sant Baruc, will be on Friday, April 5 at 8pm in the Mount Sorrel, Barry. A spokeswoman said: "Don't worry if you think that your Welsh is a bit rusty – you'll be surprised how much you remember! We all had a great catch-up in our last meeting and it was fantastic to see so many familiar faces."

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National Pet Month 2013

1st April to 6th May

LEFT: Gimli, who belongs to Maggie from Little Mill Cattery, having a nice stretch - it's an easy life being a cat!

THE PUBLIC'S CHANCE TO SHOW HOW MUCH THEY CARE

BRITAIN has long been seen as a nation of animal lovers and very soon the great pet owning public has a chance to prove it now that National Pet Month (April 1 – May 6, 2013) is here.

With almost 50 per cent of UK households owning at least one pet, this national celebration offers pet fans across the UK the chance to come together and raise money for their favourite pet charities by staging and attending a wide variety of events.

Now in its 24th year, National Pet Month offers a lifeline to pet charities throughout the country and sees all kinds of organisations taking part – from nurseries and schools to colleges, workplaces, clubs, churches, community groups, pet stores, veterinary clinics and many others.

There will also be competitions running throughout the campaign, plus special school lesson plans to help youngsters learn about the importance of looking after pets properly.

Last year's fun events included everything from special veterinary open days and sponsored dog walks to bake sales, pet shows, pet fashion parades and special church services for animals and their owners.

Keep fit queen and pet owner Rosemary Conley is among a host of celebrities supporting this year's National Pet Month.

"It's really important for people to own a pet because it makes them think, not just about themselves, but about caring for another being," says pet owning Rosemary, who is lending her support to the campaign for the second year running.

"Pets are a tonic for your health, both mentally and physically," she adds.

This year's National Pet Month theme is 'Your Pets and You; companions for life' which looks at the companionship side of owning a pet and the health benefits that come with pet ownership.

Phil Sketchley, National Pet Month chairman explains: "Whether you are a toddler or a pensioner, a pet can be a truly wonderful companion, helping to reduce anxiety and instill a sense of calm.

"Scientific research suggests there are numerous associated health benefits of pet ownership which we'll be highlighting during National Pet Month."

He adds: "Pets really do make people's lives happier and healthier and so what better way to repay them than by encouraging people to spread the responsible pet ownership message and help raise cash for pet charities around the UK?"

To say we British love our pets is an understatement. A survey carried out in 2012 on behalf of the PFMA (Pet Food Manufacturers' Association) proved beyond all doubt just how much we like to share our lives with animals.

It revealed:

- 48 per cent of UK households have at least one pet – that's the equivalent of 13 million households around the country.
- 8 million cats and 8 million dogs share their lives with us in the UK.
- 23 per cent of UK households own at least one dog
- 19 per cent of UK households own at least one cat
- There are approximately 67 million pets in the UK

Animal fans from across the country are asked to show their support for National Pet Month by staging and attending fundraising events for local pet charities, taking part in schools projects and competitions and helping spread the word on important pet ownership issues.

"We know how much we Brits love our pets. Now it's time to show just how much by raising cash for our favourite pet charities and encouraging others to look after pets responsibly. Join us and together we can make a difference," says Phil Sketchley.

Anyone can register as a supporter on the National Pet Month website for free on *www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk* where they'll receive a free events pack featuring information on NPM's key messages plus posters and tips on how to successfully stage an event.

People can then register an event on the NPM interactive map on *www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk/events*

Pet fans can follow National Pet Month on Facebook *www.facebook.com/NationalPetMonth* and on Twitter *@NatPetMonthUK*

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Meet Button

MAESTEG Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) would like to introduce Button.

Button is about two years old, and has big yellow eyes and a stripe down her face. She is very friendly and would love a quiet home.

She is used to dogs and has a very quiet nature. She is vaccinated, neutered and microchipped.

She would make a lovely companion and gets on with other cats.

MAWS has lots more cats to choose from - telephone Jan on 01656 721496.

ABOVE: Button would make a great companion.

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ABOVE: Meet Burell, enjoying the sunshine and his new shoes. He has had remedial shoeing to help with a hock problem, thanks to Brian, Mike and Rory at Hughes Farriers.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

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Honours even in local under-9 derby fixture

IN total contrast to the arctic weather the previous week, the Cowbridge under-9s enjoyed glorious sunshine for their local home derby with Bridgend Sports on Easter Sunday.

Eleven of the squad were prised away from their Easter eggs and played two halves in what proved to be a very entertaining and thrilling game.

The game was played with nine-a-side as Bridgend Sports had the bare nine with Cowbridge playing two rolling subs.

The first half saw the Sports take an early lead as they moved the ball well to both sides of the field. However, this early score was cancelled out by a Steffan Evans try, but Cowbridge once again fell behind as the Sports stretched the Cowbridge defence out wide.

Silky running from Ruben Davies once again levelled matters for the home side but Sports pulled ahead through two further tries.

Just before half time Robbie Brown crossed the try line to make the half time score 4-3 to Bridgend Sports.

The second half saw both teams going try for try in a tight battle. Both sides looked to keep the ball alive and some excellent off-loading from the tackle created space for some fine tries to be scored.

Two weaving runs from Ruben Davies resulted in two super tries and, following Cowbridge turning over possession, Akka Guwy squeezed over in the corner in what was an excellent finish.

In the midst of the try scoring Robbie Brown was proving to be a one man wrecking machine for Cowbridge, tackling everything that moved and Rhydian Williams produced a wonderful try saving touchline tackle.

However, the Sports had scored three very good tries of their own in this period and with the score 7-6 to the Sports, the last play of the game was called.

Cowbridge, during this phase of play, showed real composure which was rewarded as Steffan Evans crossed the whitewash to earn a thrilling, well deserved draw.

Squad: Ruben Davies, Will Ryan, Ethan Francis, Lewys Robins, Robbie Brown, Tom Brennan, Rhydian Williams, Akka Guwy, Archie Lloyd, Luke Treadwell and Steffan Evans.

MF

Good news for home buyers!

THE government support for home loans announced in last month's budget has been hailed as a significant step forward for buyers with the two schemes designed to help borrowers who only have a 5 per cent deposit.

The schemes are available to both first time buyers and home-movers and it is hoped that this will encourage lenders to offer better access to low-deposit mortgages.

This announcement, along with increasingly competitive rates being offered by mortgage lenders, should bring new activity to the housing market and, if you aspire to own your own home, may help you to get a foot on the property ladder.

Before plunging headlong into making an offer on a property however, prospective borrowers should take care to assess the types of mortgages that are available and which is best for them.

A low initial rate may come with a very large fee, or may tie you in on a less competitive rate later on so careful research is essential.

Lenders are very choosy about who they will lend to, so taking steps early on to ensure you have a good credit score can make a big difference.

For tips on how to improve your credit score and for independent, whole of market mortgage advice, contact CBK on 0300 303 8525 or email us: info@cbkwales.co.uk.

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CBK & CBK Wales are trading styles of CBK (Swansea) Ltd which is an appointed representative of Tenet Connect Services Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up the repayments on the mortgage.
There will be a fee for mortgage advice. The precise amount will depend upon your circumstances, but we estimate that it will be £450.

Funding changes for family cases

From April 1, 2013, public funding (previously known as Legal Aid) will not be available for most family disputes.

At a time when personal circumstances are difficult, people going through divorce or separation deserve certainty when it comes to their legal costs.

Local solicitor Hayley Brain is a specialist in family law and can offer fixed fees for divorce and other services.

She can help with issues concerning children or finances, and give advice on other matters such as separation agreements.

By knowing their costs in advance, clients avoid the worry of unexpected bills.

Let the advice come to you – Hayley will visit clients at their chosen location.

Call her on 07539 339888 or visit www.hayleybrain.co.uk for more information.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Suffering exam stress? Then help is at hand

DOES exam stress hold you back? Most of us are able to learn and absorb information well, yet when it comes to being tested, some people suffer from 'exam stress' and don't perform to their potential.

Often stress starts months ahead – not only at exam time. Contributing factors include bad experience; lack of confidence or low self esteem and when performance in an exam is linked to our sense of worth as a person, it is quite easy to suffer from perfectionism, or the fear of failure.

The good news is hypnotherapy is a powerful tool which can help students feel more at ease ahead of the exam, more focused and able to assimilate information during studying.

Hypnosis can empower students to concentrate using all their resources towards exam success!

For more information, please contact Sue Pitman on 07795 964 066; or cardiffhypnotherapysolutions@gmail.com

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LETSMOVEIN.co.uk Lettings and Property Management is a new agency based in Llantwit Major.

"We are the new kids on the block," explains Philip Jelinek, "although we have rented out our own properties for a number of years."

For the month of April 'Lets Move In' is offering to 'find a tenant for free' for all local landlords with available property.

All properties are advertised on Rightmove – the UK number one property site.

Tenants are in regular contact with the agency requesting their specific housing needs.

For futher details, contact Philip on 07594 060 337.

Lets Move In .co .uk
Lettings and Property Management

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Email: philip@letsmovein.co.uk
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TOY AND TRAIN SALE

CARDIFF toy and train sale is on Saturday, April 6, from 10.30am to 3pm at Penarth Leisure Centre, CF64 2NS.

It is now established as one of the most popular and largest shows in the south of the UK.

The venue is highly suitable and most accessible. Cogan Railway Station is virtually alongside the centre and ATW operate a highly frequent service from all directions, making the advice 'travel by train' appropriate.

Road connections from the city and from the motorway network are also excellent and there is ample free parking at the centre.

A great caterer in Rita Limbrick operates within the show offering superb fare at reasonable prices, and raising funds for charity at the same time.

Few events will offer the range, quality, quantity and value-for-money. Even in the recent difficult years, toy and train collecting has continued to thrive, mainly due to the efforts of the traders to scale their prices to their customers' ability to finance their hobby.

NEXT GREAT SHOW...
CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE
SATURDAY, 6th APRIL, 2013
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Whether you wish to join one of our own holidays or excursions, or you wish to go away as a group, talk to us and we will discuss the different options available.

For further information, please see our advertisement or come and have a coffee with us in the Age Concern Coffee Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on a Tuesday morning between 9.30am-12.30pm; or alternatively, call 07906 874876 or 01446 736070 after 6pm.

An 'Immaculate' service for all cleaning needs

IMMACULATE Cleaning Services has been running for many years, covering Bridgend and the Vale for all your domestic cleaning and ironing needs.

All our staff are extremely reliable, friendly and very hard working, offering 100 per cent customer satisfaction.

We have a variety of clients, from students, to busy mums, to elderly ladies and gentlemen.

We offer very competitive rates, are fully insured, all staff can be CRB checked and we can also provide fantastic references from our customers.

Due to the wonderful response we had from our 'Spring Clean' offer, we have now extended this until the end of April, where a five-hour or more clean will be 10 per cent off! Book now to avoid disappointment!

FeelGood Factory opens at Royal Glamorgan Hospital

THE first FeelGood Factory in south Wales has recently opened near the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

Twelve Shapemaster power-assisted machines, which allow users to exercise both passively and actively, have been installed in a comfortable, relaxed friendly atmosphere, and can be used, regardless of size or physical ability.

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(Sterling Drive is next to the CAT factory, just off the roundabout at the north end of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, on the bus route 122 between Cardiff and Tonypandy)

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Full

Tuesday 16 April
Brecon Mountain Railway & Lunch. Depart at 10.30am & Return at 5.30pm.
£27 pp inclusive of lunch & Return Journey on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

Friday 26 April
Lunch at The Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl. Depart at 11am & Return at 3pm.
£15 pp fully inclusive of Fish & Chips, Bread & Butter & a Cup of Tea/Coffee.

Limited Availability **Tuesday 30 April**
Weston Super Mare. Depart at 10am & Return at 7pm.
£16 pp.

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Short Breaks

Date	Nights	Destination	Accommodation	Board Basis	Price pp
1-5 April	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£149
29 April -3May	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£159
13-17 May	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£269
27-31 May	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£174
10-14 June	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£279
17-21 June	4	Sherbourne	The Sherbourne	DBB	£199
15-19 July	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£299
22-26 July	4	Sherbourne	The Sherbourne	DBB	£219
19-23 August	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£299
23-27 September	4	Sherbourne	The Sherbourne	DBB	£199
21-25 October ** Flashback to the 40's & 50's	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£182
18-22 November ** Turkey & Tinsel	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£199

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Out and About with The GEM

Danny Boyle's latest 'en-Trances' you in a mind-bending thriller

DANNY Boyle has slowly and steadily shown that he is one of the finest directors working in cinema today.

Blending high-octane visuals with a strong sense of story, his films always make for a satisfying viewing experience, and now with his stock never higher, thanks to the one-two punch of *Slumdog Millionaire* and *127 Hours*, expectations are huge for his next work.

Trance stars James McAvoy as Simon, an art auctioneer working with underworld boss Franck (Vincent Cassel) to plot the heist of an artwork worth millions. When Simon is knocked unconcious, he loses all memory of where he has stored the artwork, and is taken to a hypnotherapist (Rosario Dawson); but when they enter Simon's psyche, the lines between truth and fiction blur and the stakes become even bigger than they were before...

Given that in the last four years Danny Boyle has gone from being an esteemed director to a national treasure (and one who won't accept a knighthood), the hype and expectation surrounding his films now is huge, even if the set-up and execution still remains firmly rooted in Boyle's small in scale but broad in execution ideology.

Re-entering the world of a crime thriller where you can never quite trust the characters and their motivations, a world where he made his breakthrough in *Shallow Grave*, *Trance* is the work of a director who has an unwavering sense of confidence and belief in his own abilities; but rather than turn this into an ego massage of filmic proportions, *Trance* sees Boyle near the top of his game – and loving every minute of it.

Kicking things off with a potted history of art heists, Boyle's signature style soon comes into play as fast cuts, close-ups and handheld cameras all play their part in creating a kinetic feast for the eyes.

With a clean and crisp palette, Boyle takes great delight in playing on the ambiguity of the story and the characters, the use of mirrors and reflections in his shots emphasising that these characters are rarely what they seem, and, as you would expect, the film looks absolutely superb.

There are few directors who can create such ragged beauty on a cinema screen and Boyle is one of them (if rumours of a seat at the 007 directing table are true, imagine that James Bond film!) The film is a progression of wonderfully framed shots that are simply stunning.

With the story weighing heavily on the central threesome of James McAvoy, Vincent Cassel and Rosario Dawson, their performances are all up to the task.

McAvoy finds himself put through the wringer somewhat as the man whose memory (or lack of it) could have fatal consequences, and while showing the vulnerability of a man in this position, he also shows the hidden layers that suggest more is afoot.

The same can be said of Dawson, playing what in normal hands would be a character caught in the middle of some dastardly deeds but here, with a sugestive look, her motives are constantly under scrutiny, either a puppeteer or just a fly caught in the spider's web.

Cassel's character too, is more than the sum of the parts, a crook but one that in his hands goes from being a player to being played and back again, his mask of control slipping as events unfold.

Occasional Boyle collaborator John Hodge (he also did the screenplays for, among others, *Trainspotting* and *The Beach)* does a great job of adapting Joe Ahearne's original script (it was made as a TV movie in 2001), bringing a realism and depth to proceedings, while never letting the twisty-turny nature of the story overpower the film.

It's most definitely a film that will stand up to repeat viewings, as you find yourself questioning what is real and what is suggestion, and with a kicker of an ending that ties the story together nicely, while still keeping you on your toes, *Trance* is a film that is most definitely worth being hypnotised by.

VERDICT - Striking while the iron is most definitely hot, *Trance* is another success for Danny Boyle. The mind-bending story keeps you engaged throughout, as do the fine performances from a wonderful cast, but Boyle's visual sense has never been more wonderfully attuned than here; an incredible piece of work. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Inception* (2010), *Shallow Grave* (1994)

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Councillors' Surgery

WARD councillors Fred Johnson, Neil Moore and Anne Moore will be holding a surgery in Cadoxton Moors community centre, Cadoxton, on Saturday, April 6, from 10.30am to 11.30am; all are welcome.

Discover Bridgend's past

FAMILIES can discover more about Bridgend county borough's rich and fascinating history at a special event at Pencoed College on Saturday, April 6, between 10am and 1.30pm.

The free 'This is YOUR Heritage 2013' event is being supported by Reach, Bridgend County Borough Council's rural development programme, and will show what local life was like throughout the ages.

An interactive timeline, fun workshops, displays and talks from local history groups, traditional craft stalls and activities will all create an interesting morning that delves into Bridgend county borough's past.

For further information contact Nicola Lewis on 01656 815080 or email Nicola.lewis3@bridgend.gov.uk.

You can also find out more about local history at www.bridgendsheritage.co.uk

Meeting postponed

COWBRIDGE Royal British Legion has cancelled its meeting on April 9 and it will take place on April 29 at the Lesser Hall at 7.30 pm.

Floral Society

BARRY Floral Society meets on April 9, when Mrs Delyth Price will give a demonstration, 'Colours Rich and Glorious'.

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, at 2.15 pm.

New members are always welcome.

Cavatina Singers 'Dial M for Music'

AT a well attended afternoon concert in the newly-renovated All Saints' Church, Penarth, Cavatina Singers dialled 'M for Music' as their concert theme.

They were ably conducted by their music director Victoria Pilley and accompanied on the piano by Philip May.

The choir was supported by soloists and friends currently studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The essence of the programme was that all pieces related one way or another to the letter 'M', be it the name of the composer (Mozart) or the type of work, such as madrigals or motets.

The concert began with the choir singing 'Three Madrigals' by Diemer, a French version of the Lord's Prayer ("Notre Pere') by Maurice Durufle and 'Dirait-on' by Morten Lauridsen.

The choir was fortunate in having the services of two soloists, Beth Moxon (alto) and Angharad Watkeys (soprano), from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Beth sang the Welsh piece 'Gwynfyd', followed by Angharad singing 'Adieu notre petite table' by Massenet and 'Madame Noy' by Bliss.

Both soloists were enthusiastically received by the audience.

Cavatina sang a variety of other pieces, which included Bruckner's 'Locus Iste', Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus', and Morley's 'April is in My Mistress' Face'.

Beth was accompanied by the choir in Mozart's 'Laudate Dominum' and both Beth and Angharad sang a number of other solo pieces during the programme.

The concert concluded with the choir and soloists singing Vivaldi's 'Magnificat' RV611, followed by generous applause from the audience.

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Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery.

● **£2000:** 397990.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £11,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 370559; 362990; 839656; 881334; 114772; 697217; 533633; 290628; 727555; 617566; 736739; 693895; 269095; 302271; 696034; 958271; 131546; 148539; 210651; 260191.

● **£5:** 972109; 861760; 634909; 207178; 825132; 497399; 275522; 253410; 247323; 834240; 216824; 573411; 919095; 728883; 641034; 136839; 918923; 553414; 386101; 810330; 477456; 460944; 801506; 158792; 240036; 767095; 932957; 646381; 875322; 712758; 725895; 972596; 393251; 368423; 133623; 139653; 958990; 615341; 634765; 393714; 121988; 651971; 358415; 718614; 603671; 754599; 370403; 322390; 420539; 563708; 859794; 224943; 273337; 654851; 870323; 273420; 279827; 636323; 762956.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

NEW GROUP

FRIDAY
Dinas Powys 9.30am
Opening 5th April 2013
The Cabin by Swimming Pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525 852288

MONDAY
Barry
4.30 & 6.30pm
The Tadross Hotel, Holton Road (next to Bassett Park)
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Cwm Talwg Pub
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Severn Avenue
Wiggy - 07970 450694

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue
Nia - 07793 885581

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Llantwit Major
9.30am
Catholic Church, Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Barry RFC
7.30pm
Merthyr Dyfan Road
Teresa - 07889 828401

Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Illtyd Church (Catholic)
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY
Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.30am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

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THURSDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Dinas Powys
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Little Shop of Calm, Westgate
Rob - 07708 941279.

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BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR PRACTISING THEIR DUTCH!

EXCITING times lie ahead once again for members of the Barry Male Voice Choir.

Following a well-deserved rest from engagements after their 110th celebratory year, the choir is once again on a surge of concert activity.

March 1 heralded this spring resurgence with a concert for the BP pensioners at the Mount Sorrel Hotel.

This was followed by concerts at St Mary's Church, Barry in aid of Barry Mayor Les Sword's local charities, and a concert at St Peter's Church, Dinas Powis.

Both these concerts also involved the Barry Ladies Choir.

Holton Road School Choir and St Andrew's Church in Wales School Choir also contributed to the melodious harmonies of the occasions.

Another European visit beckons. Choir secretary Richard King, explained: "Last year's visit to France was in search of wine.

"This year's visit to Gouda, Holland, is in search of the cheese. We hope to have a good time and look forward to sharing in the 90th celebrations of the Mannenkoor Gouda's Liedertafel, for which we shall be singing a song in Dutch."

The choir has been very fortunate in having the services of Jenn Edwards and her husband, tenor Bruce, in making the arrangements.

Bruce is confident that visits to a cheese factory and brewery, and the hospitality of the Gouda choir will ensure that the visit is fulfilling in every way!

Jenny, who has many family members living in Gouda, has also been assisting the choir in getting to grips with the difficult gutteral pronunciation when singing in Dutch.

In the photograph (above), the choir is performing at the St Peter's concert

Gareth Jones

'German Great Escape' remembered at Island Farm this weekend

VISITORS to the 'This is Your Heritage' event at the Pencoed Campus of Bridgend College this Saturday, April 6, will have the opportunity of meeting members of the recently-formed 'Hut 9 Preservation Group' and can learn all about the German Great Escape in March 1945.

The chairman of the group, Dr Jonathan Hicks, said: "The group was formed last December and comprises local historians and archaeologists.

"Our aim is to preserve Hut 9 and obtain Heritage Lottery Funding to restore it, and then open it to school visits and the general public.

"Our last open day in September attracted hundreds of visitors from far and wide.

"We are taking part in this annual event which aims to showcase the heritage of the county of Bridgend.

"Several living historians in WW2 uniforms will be on hand to chat with the public about Hut 9, the sole remaining building of the Island Farm prisoner of war camp. We will also be displaying artefacts from the camp."

Admission is free and there will also be three talks for the public to enjoy – on Hut 9 by local expert Brett Exton, the history of Kenfig, and St John's House.

Doors open at 9.30 am and the event closes at 1.30 pm.

VALE MAYOR'S COFFEE MORNING

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's charity coffee morning is being held in the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 9, from 10.30am to 12 noon.

All proceeds will go to the above charity.

RHS garden designer brings 'Artful Bodger' to Cardiff flower show

LOCAL garden designer Anthea Guthrie has designed 14 RHS award-winning gardens in total, and in April (19-21) she returns to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Flower Show in Cardiff with a wild woodland garden, in a collaboration with Heronsbridge School.

ABOVE: Anthea Guthrie.

The 'Artful Bodger's Garden' is inspired by the beautiful woodland around the school, where lawyer turned garden designer Anthea has taught for the past five years.

The woodland garden highlights the ancient craft of 'bodging', where the bodger would buy a stand of trees from the landowner and cut and make chair legs and other forestry products.

The bodger would build a 'bodger's hovel' to shelter from the worst of the weather, with the tools of his trade around him, including a pole lathe for turning the chair legs.

Show visitors will be able to walk through the garden, and view the bodger's hovel up close.

The garden will feature leaf mould, mossy logs and twigs, alongside typical woodland planting with primroses, ferns, and other local plants such as garlic chives, which grow profusely in the area.

Anthea said: "This will be my 14th RHS show, four of them with the students at Heronsbridge who get so much from working with the soil. The garden reflects the beautiful woods where I ride and walk, and demonstrates how an interest in horticulture can be developed with youngsters."

Anthea will also be in the talks and demonstrations marquee with 'A Learning Curve – Gardening with Children', a talk about the inspirational youngsters she works with in Heronsbridge.

YMCA courses for young photographers

BARRY YMCA will be offering two new courses in photography for the next school term.

Photography*Jnr is designed for children aged four–10 years old, and for the 11–16 group. Cameras will be supplied, or students can bring their own!

Spaces are strictly limited to 10 for each group. Sessions will be run every Tuesday afternoon in term time. Age four–10, 4pm–4.50pm, and age 11–16, 5pm–5.50pm

Children under the age of eight will need to be accompanied by a parent/carer or guardian at all times.

Sessions are £6.50, which includes use of cameras and all creative materials Contact Natasha on *photography_jnr@yahoo.co.uk*

WI CELEBRATION BOOK CONTINUES ON ITS WAY

Llanmaes WI pass the celebration book on to Llantwit Major.

THE Celebration Book being created to mark the 90th anniversary of the Glamorgan Federation of WIs continues travelling around the Vale.

It will record the wide variety of interests, talents and activities of over 4,500 members in 108 institutes in the old Glamorgan area.

Mrs Jean Thomas, the longest serving member of Llanmaes WI, handed the book to Mrs Jean Swift and the enthusiastic committee of Llantwit Major WI recently.

Llanmaes WI meet at Llanmaes Church Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month and Llantwit Major WI meet at Llantonian Hall at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Both institutes welcome new members to share their friendship and interests.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Evening of Clairvoyance

JOIN Leah Bond and Moya O'Dwyer for an evening of clairvoyance at Barry Spiritualist Centre, Buttrills Road, Barry, on Monday, April 8, at 7pm – £4 entry on door.

Advice from RNID

HAVE you any form of hearing impediment?

An advisor from the Royal National Institute for the Deaf will be available to give advice and support on services available.

This session will take place at The Senior Health Shop, 38, Holton Road on Thursday, April 11, 10am – 12 midday. This session will be very informal.

The Ageing Well Project is holding a series of health topics and information sessions as it is important to get information out to the over 50s.

How better than having a chat over a cup of tea or coffee? Contact 01446 732385 for further information, or just come along on the morning.

GF

FocusBARRY meeting

THE next FocusBARRY meeting will be on April 12 at the Barry West End Club at 7pm.

Members, supporters and guests are welcome to attend, contribute and to take part during the discussion sessions.

We are going to receive a presentation about the history of Barry Island, discuss an initiative called the Barry Ideasbank and have a general dicussion of the current local issues from around the town.

Jeffrey Heathfield
secretary, FocusBARRY

New Seat Toledo is a strong contender in family car market

by TIM SAUNDERS

WE live in extremely straitened times where most countries, including the UK, continue to accumulate debt.

The prospect of a career for life has become virtually non-existent. Most of us feel that there's less money, with which we have to do more.

Consequently, the hard-up motorist craves a good deal, and Seat, realises this. It has responded with its Toledo, the family hatchback priced from under £13,000 to just below £18,000, and its diesel model also happens to be super economical. Thank goodness – perhaps life is not so bad after all.

Named after the historic Spanish city, this is an extremely sensible car for our times. With its clean lines, it is one to be proud of, and the 1.6TDI SE test model was significantly helped by its burgundy finish.

Sharing the same chassis as the Skoda Rapid, which I tested only a few weeks ago, both models clearly share a good deal.

The Seat Toledo 1.6TDI SE.

This comes as no surprise as Seat is owned by Volkswagen, which also owns Skoda.

The rear wash/wipe on both models has been borrowed from the Audi A1. The washer is built into the wiper and effectively projects a jet of spray across the window, unlike any other wiper I have come across. Buyers pay a premium for such innovative features on the Audi, too.

Inside, the dashboard is very similar to the Rapid, with the same layout and controls.

Then there's the good build quality and the hardwearing interior trim. Its seats, however, could do with being more supportive, especially over longer journeys. Generally it has a competent, if bland, ride.

There's a folding armrest in the centre of the cabin, which is useful for long motorway jaunts when gear changes aren't required.

At speed, the Toledo does buffet a bit in the wind but this is quickly forgotten when realising that this little gem returns over 50mpg at 70mph.

Engine stop/start helps this model easily cover 700 miles on a tank of fuel. It's pretty gutsy, too, hitting 60mph from standstill in just over 10 seconds. The five-speed box is as reasonable as you might expect; I don't have a bad word to say about it.

Families need a massive boot and they won't be disappointed with the 550 litres of luggage space, as you can see in the video at *testdrives.biz*. If more room is required, the rear seats fold down and the centre rear armrest conceals a hole for long, awkward objects such as skis or piping.

Luxuries include electric front windows, electrically adjustable wing mirrors and air conditioning.

"Seat will be hoping that the Toledo can help dent the sales figures of popular established hatchbacks like the Ford Focus, while pinning back newer entries in to this market such as the Volvo V40," writes Parkers, the car experts.

"While it may have the appearance of a saloon, this latest version of the Toledo comes with a large, wide-opening rear hatch."

The Toledo, just like the Skoda Rapid, makes an ideal family proposition.

2013 onwards – New price range: £12,495 - £17,840; Economy: 64mpg; 0-60mph: 10.1secs; Top speed: 118mph; Power: 103bhp.

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NINA ESTATE AGENTS
are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£92,500** for
WEST WALK 30, BARRY CF62 8BY
Anyone wishing to submit an offer for this property should contact
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01446 736888
before exchange of contracts.

WANTED

Man looking for well maintained modern house, has cash available – quick purchase needed. Will pay up to £125,000.

First time buyers looking for 2-3 bedroomed house up to £100,000. Any areas of Barry. Mortgage in place.

Investors looking for properties to modernise in any areas of Barry – Reliable buyers.

These are only a few of many buyers waiting for properties, call for a free valuation on your property. 01446 736888

NEW SSTC in 24hrs
WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms, mid terraced. Living room, kitchen/diner. Replacement bathroom, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain. ER=D
£142,500

NEW
WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY
Bay fronted, spacious family home. Double exension. Living/dining room, kitchen, sitting room, upvc DG. Gas CH. Four bedrooms. Master ensuite. ER=C
£139,950

NEW
CARN Y EBOL, BARRY
Modern detached. Three/four bedrooms, living room, dining room, converted garage. Master with ensuite. wc cloakrom. Low maintenance garden. Driveway providing parking.
£197,000

NEW
BLACKBERRY DRIVE, BARRY
Modern detached. Four bedrooms. Living/dining room. Kitchen/breakfast. wc cloakroom. Driveway/parking. Integral garage. Larger than average patio. Enclosed garden.
£209,950

NEW SSTC
WOODHAM PARK, BARRY
Well presented, two bedroomed mid linked modern property. Living room. Replacement bathroom. Replacement kitchen. Parking to front. Cul de sac position. Enclosed rear garden. ER=C
£109,950

NEW
WYE CLOSE, BARRY
Two bedrooms, semi detached bungalow. Maintenance free. Living room - bi-fold doors opening to rear. Replacement kitchen, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Driveway/garage.
£164,950

NEW
DOBBINS ROAD, BARRY
In need of modernisation. Situated on enviable plot. Room to extend (subject to usual planning consent). Three bedrooms, two reception rooms. upvc throughout. No chain. ER=F
£124,950

NEW PRICE
GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
Two bedroomed, modern semi detached. Fitted kitchen, living room with patio doors. Shower room. Garage/parking/driveway. Enclosed rear garden. ER=C
£114,950

NEW PRICE
LON FFERM FELIN, BARRY
Modern detached. Four bedrooms. Two separate living rooms, utility room, wc cloak, conservatory. private enclosed level garden. Garage/ driveway. Purpose made paths leading to Porthceri Country park. No chain. ER=D
£239,950

NEW PRICE
TRINITY STREET, BARRY
Three bedroomed, mid terraced traditional. wc cloakroom. Living room, fitted kitchen, level enclosed garden. West End location. Gas Central heating. ER=D
£114,950

NEW PRICE
WYND STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms, bay fronted. Forecourted front. Immaculate presentation. Through living room, modern fitted kitchen, enclosed garden - lane access. Ideal first time buy. ER=D
£101,500

NEW PRICE
CLIVE ROAD, BARRY
Two bedrooms. Sea views from front elevation. Double glazed. Gas central heating. No chain. Viewing advised. ER=E
£109,950

NEW PRICE
CHANNEL CLOSE, BARRY
Modern detached. Living room, dining room, siting room, fitted kitchen. Shower room,wc. Three bedrooms, family bathroom. Shower room wc. Garage/enclosed garden. ER=E
£160,000

HOWARD COURT, BARRY
First floor apartment. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast. Family bathroom with freestanding shower cubicle. Garage/parking. Shared enclosed garden to front and rear. ER=F
£124,995

BREAKSEA COURT, BARRY
Top floor apartment. Split level. Living room, Replacement kitchen/diner - solid oak flooring. Two bedrooms, Replacement bathroom. Far reaching sea views over Bristol Channel. upvc DG. Gas CH. No chain. Designated parking to rear. ER=F
£115,950

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Mid tarraced. Bay fronted. Through living room, kitchen, utility area, wc cloak, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Garage - lane access. ER=C
£139,950

LISCUM WAY, BARRY
5 bed detached (previously 4 bed). Downstairs cloakroom, living/dining room, conservatory, upvc DG and Gas CH. Driveway providing ample parking. Garage. Enclosed rear garden. ER=D
£224,950

OXFORD STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced. Traditional dwelling. Two reception rooms. Original block flooring. Three bedrooms. Rear garden backing onto Porthceri. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain. ER=C
£162,000

COURTLANDS, BARRY
First floor studio apartment. Open plan. Living room, kitchen and bedroom. Separate bathroom. Communal door entry. Maintenance free living. No chain. ER=C
£59,950

PORTH Y CASTELL, BARRY
Stunning detached. Three double bedrooms. Open plan living room, dining room and kitchen. wc cloakroom. Sitting room. Master bedroom leading to sun lounge. Far reaching sea views. ER=D
£429,950

SURAN Y GOG, BARRY
Modern detached. Living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast. Utility room - wc cloak. Integral garage. Three bedrooms (ensuite). More than ample parking. Garage/enclosed garden. ER=D
£189,950

MINSTER CLOSE, BARRY
Modern detached. Cul de sac position. Living room leading to dining room. Conservatory, kitchen, utility room, converted garage. Spacious side and rear garden. Driveway. ER=D
£169,950

SEALAWNS, BARRY
Far reaching sea views. Well presented. 2nd floor apartment. Living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, shower room. Garage/parking. Viewing recommended. ER=E
£124,950

SEALAWNS, BARRY
Lower ground apartment. Two bedrooms. Spacious living room. Outside balcony/ seating area. Fantastic sea views. Garage - communal parking. No chain. In need of modernisation. ER=D
£122,950

CARADOC AVENUE, BARRY
Semi detached. Three double bedrooms. Through living room. Fitted kitchen/utility room. First floor bathroom. Driveway/detached garage. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG, Gas CH. ER=D
£129,950

FONMON PARK ROAD, RHOOSE
Modern detached. wc cloakroom. Living room, conservatory. Fitted kitchen, dining room. Master with ensuite. level enclosed rear garden. Driveway/garage, side access. upvc DG. gas CH. Viewing essential. ER=D
£164,950

PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms, semi detached. Living room, sea views from rear. upvc double glazing. Gas central heating. No chain. ER=D
£94,950

GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted. Mid terraced traditional. Shower/utility/wc. 21ft through living room, kitchen/diner. Three bedrooms. Hobby room in attic with velux window. Low maintenance rear garden. ER=C
£124,950

8 ROWAN COURT, BARRY
Three bedroomed mainsonette. Far reaching sea views. Refurbished throughout. Gas CH via combi. upvc DG. Newly fitted carpets. Newly fitted bathroom suite. 26ft lounge. Enclosed balcony. ER=D
£132,500

LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
Corner positioned. Semi detached. Three bedrooms, living room, dining room. Fitted kitchen. Garage/parking. Enclosed rear garden. ER=D
£119,950

DAVID STREET, BARRY
Two double bedroomed. Mid terraced traditional. Two reception rooms. Ground floor bathroom. Garden backing onto woodland. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain. ER=D
£89,950

BELL STREET, BARRY
Two bedroomed. Traditional mid terraced. Living/dining room, kitchen. wc cloakroom. First floor family bathroom, Enclosed rear garden. Minutes walk to Porthceri. ER=E
£108,950

THE PASTURES, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Living room, dining area. Driveway leading to garage. Enclosed garden. No chain. upvc DG. Gas CH. ER=C
£123,000

GREENACRES, BARRY
Modern detached. wc cloakroom. Living room, fitted kitchen. Dining room (converted garage). Three bedrooms (master ensuite). Enclosed level garden. 2012 replacement combi boiler. upvc DG. No chain.
£159,950

COURT ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional. Through 25ft living room. Additional sitting room. wc cloakroom. Three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom. Garage - lane access. No chain. ER=D
£124,950

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 10 April 2013

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 203169
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets
- 2 x three-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £86.02 per week including water charges

CULVER CLOSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 252055
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens
- Water meter

Rent £87.49 per week

EAGLESWELL ROAD, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U reference 402466
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £87.71 per week

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 237192
Suit for a single person or couple over 60
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £100.95 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

LONGMEADOW CRT, COWBRIDGE

H4U Reference 230241
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £107.20 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

LOUGHER PLACE, ST ATHAN

H4U Reference 248899
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £96.92 per week including water charges

OSPREY COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1018048
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £73.35 per week including service charge

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243339
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Third floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £100.95 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

REDLANDS HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243963
Suit for a single person or couple over 60 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (lift)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £108.76 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

ST DAVIDS CRESCENT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 244553
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Four-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £91.87 per week including water charges

ST JAMES COURT, PENARTH (2)

H4U Reference 244838
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
- 2 x one-bedroom flats
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £82.81 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 228377
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £80.00 per week inc water & service chgs

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this chnage will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

Examples

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

Please be aware of the above when making bids for properties in this advert as this may affect how much rent you pay.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Gileston Road, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Conservatory
No Stamp Duty
£124,950 F37

Wesley Street, Llantwit Major
Rarely Available
3 Bedrooms
garage
£227,500 E41

Starling Road, St Athan
Loft Conversion
3 Bedrooms
UPVC GCH
£109,950 D58

Chris Davies

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Llantwit Major 01446 792020
Barry 01446 700007
sales@chris-davies.co.uk

Starling Road, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Open Green Aspect
ideal First Time Purchase
£89,950 D68

Cwrt Syr Dafydd, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
No Forward Chain
£249,950 D63

Heol-Y-Felin, Llantwit Major
4 Double Bedrooms
Detatched Garage
Adjoining Woodland
£319,950 D63

Grange Gardens, Llantwit Major
5 Bedrooms
Recently Updated
No Onward Chain
£229,950 E46

Castle Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms, 16' Lounge
Ideal First Time Purchase
£109,950 C70

Picketston Close, St Athan
3 Beds
Open Plan Living/Kitchen
Garage
£125,000 D63

Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
No Onward Chain
View Today
£165,000 D67

Harding Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
3/4 Bedrooms
Lounge/Diner, Conservatory
£169,950 D65

Church Meadow, Boverton, Llantwit Major
Family Home, 3 Bedrooms
Well Appointed Kitchen
£174,950 E51

Cardigan Crescent, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
3 Receptions
Well Presented
£184,950 D66

Rectory Drive, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Corner Plot
Adjacent Views of Fields
£205,000 D67

Redwood Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
First Floor Flat
2 Bedrooms, Garage
£94,950 D68

Lets!

Woodlands Road, Barry D32 - £475 pcm
Ground floor apartment, two bedrooms, part furnished

Scott Close, St Athan E47 - £475 pcm
Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, GCH

Murlande Way, Rhoose C74 - £475 pcm
Modern mid link, Two beds, New carpets

Pinewood Square, St Athan E54 - £480 pcm
Refurbished, Two Bedrooms, Gardens

Flemingstone Road, St Athan - £495 pcm
Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner

Mallory Close, St Athan D58 - £495 pcm
Three bedrooms, Kitchen/diner, enclosed rear garden

Partridge Road, St Athan E48 - £495 pcm
Two Bedrooms, Kitchen/diner, GCH

Gerddi Margaret, Barry - £495 pcm
First Floor, two bedroom apartment, parking.

Pontypridd Road, Barry D56 - £495 pcm
2 Double Bed flat, Refitted Bathroom, Garage

Shakespeare Drive, Llantwit Major - £525pcm
TwoBedrooms, mid link, Parking

Ty Cwmpas, Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry - £525 pcm
Two Bedroom apartment, Ensuite, Allocated Private Parking

Beaufort Way, Rhoose C73 - £550 pcm
Two bedrooms, Driveway, Enclosed rear garden

Bell Street, Barry - C76 £625 pcm
Three bedrooms, Downstairs bathroom, enclosed garden

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A reception will be held for Meyrick's friends & family at The Bear Hotel at 1pm.

Further enquiries may be directed to the Funeral Directors, W James & Sons, Fonmon. Tel 01446 710096.

PEMBER
Margaret

Peacefully on March 25 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Margaret of St Athan, beloved wife of Alun, dearly loved mother of Royston, Heather, Alun and Jonty, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday April 12, service 2pm at St Athan Church followed by interment in St Athan Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

OWEN
Mansel

Peacefully at Ty Gwyn Nursing Home, Penarth, on 25th March 2013, Mansel, loving husband of Margaret, proud father of Richard and Stephanie.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service to be held at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, on Tuesday, 9th April at 11.15am. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, will be appreciated for Ty Gwyn Nursing Home and may be sent directly to Ty Gwyn Nursing Home, 21-23 Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF64 2EZ.
All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21A Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel. (029) 2051 4627

JONES
Phoebe May

Peacefully passed away on March 27th at her home in Rhoose, with her family around her, Phoebe, beloved wife of Tom, dearly loved mother of Stephen and Lynda, much loved grandmother of Melanie, Louisa, Felicity, Stephen, Lloyd and Liberty, great-grandmother of Curtis, Chiara, Sophia, Mitchell, Caiden and Lincoln.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, April 11th, service 11.15am at Porthkerry Church followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Thank You

THANK YOU

The family of Bill Braund of Kathleen Street wish to thank everyone who came to his aid when he fell recently in Claude Road. Everyone was so kind and helpful. Bill is now recovering from his ordeal.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE

Messrs Roger Thomas – **Millands Park, Llanmaes** – Erection of a small agricultural shed for the storage of machinery, hay, fertilizers, sheep and general agricultural implements.
NST Management & Development – **29 High Street, Cowbridge** – Alterations to ground floor and extension to rear of ground floor.
Lloyds Banking Group – **Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 1 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Three internally illuminated textbands; two internally illuminated projectors; one internally illuminated round brand logo; two internally illuminated heritage window light strips; one externally non-illuminated applied vinyl; two externally non-illuminated aluminium name plates; two internally non-illuminated applied vinyls.
Mr and Mrs Nigel Jones – **112 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Proposed ground floor utility and kitchen extension.
MacDonald's Restaurants Ltd – **MacDonalds's Restaurants Ltd., Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Various new freestanding signs. Reconfiguration of existing signage to suit new drive-thru layout.
MacDonalds' Restaurants Ltd. – **MacDonald's Restaurants Ltd., Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Minor alterations to the drive-thru lane to provide a side-by-side order point which incorporates a new island for the associated signage. The relocation of the grill bays and the installation of two customer order displays with canopies over.
Mr Howard Anstee – **38 Smithies Avenue, Sully** – Outline application for four bedroom dwelling on existing plot in garden of 38 Smithies Avenue, Sully.
Mr and Mrs Grey – **Pheasant Rise, Cowbridge Road**, St Nicholas – Demolish and reconstruct conservatory to rear.
Mr Tucker – **8 Cae'r Odyn, Dinas Powys** – Conversion of garage to living accommodation.
Ms Vivienne Edwards – **Starlight View, 156 Westward Rise, Barry** – The erection of a timber fence.
Mr Ivor Tanner – **Highdene, Cowbridge Road, St Nicholas** – Proposed new dwelling in garden of Highdene, St Nicholas.
Cardiff Council – **Cambrian Marina and adjoining land, Watkiss Way, Cardiff** – Variation of Conditions of Outline Permission 08/02191/C to allow for phasing implementation and other matters where specified in letter.
Mrs N Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – Construction of a timber clad single storey stable block.
Mr Bert Davelaar – **Land at 103 Penlan Road, Llandough** – Development of a detached house with a double garage.
Prof Christopher MacLeod – **41 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys** – erection of rear single storey extension.
Mr John Durrant – **Franklin Court, Llanmaes** – Remove five conifers.
Mr Richard and Sian Banks – **The Tower, Tower Hill, Penarth** – External renovations, ground floor extension and new vehicular entrance.
Mr Adrian Shakespeare – **3 Frampton Lane, Llantwit Major** – First floor extension above existing garage.
Mr John Bowsher – **12 Cherwell Road, Penarth** – Construction of single storey front porch and cloakroom, construction of single storey rear extension and new roof, over-cladding with vertical stained timber boarding to existing stucco on first floor elevations. Replacement of some windows at ground and first floor, minor internal alterations and construction of new chimney stack.
Mr Raymond Thomas – **Long range of stone outbuildings, north-west of Sutton House, Llandow, Cowbridge** – Repair and construction work to gable wall.
Mr Mark Thomas – **Greystones, Rhoose Road, Rhoose** – 30 per cent crown reduction to Ash tree; dismantle line of Conifers; 50 per cent crown reduction to Weeping Willow; dismantle Conifer next to pond and dismantle Birch tree.
Mr Rehaz Abdoolla – **40 High Street, Barry** – Proposed change of use to one bedroom ground floor self-contained apartment (amendment to 2010/00545/FUL).
Mr Brian Casey – **7 Charteris Close, Penarth** – Extensions and alterations to bungalow and garage.
Mr Lyn Howell – **5 St James Crescent, Barry** – Proposed rear orangeries and double storey side extension for domestic use only.
Taylor Wimpey – **Land south of the railway line, Trem Echni, Rhoose Point, Rhoose** – Signs.
Lloyds Banking Group – **Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, High Street, Cowbridge** – To upgrade external signwork to the new trading style of the applicant.
Mr John Clowes – **Hillcot House, Church Road, Llanblethian** – Fell two large conifers.
Fitz Project Management – **Poundfield Farm, Pound Lane, Wenvoe** – Two storey south west wing extension to existing house.
Lloyds Banking Group – **Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, 9 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** – Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signs.
Mr Eifion Watkins – **Boverton Post Office, Boverton Road, Boverton** – One illuminated hanging sign, internally mounted, static illumination only.
Mr Lee Russell – **2 Norwood Crescent, Barry** – Proposed single storey side extension to form garage, utility and home office.
Mr N Humphreys – **84 South Road, Sully** – Erection of glazed balustrade and screen to perimeter of flat roof to rear of dwelling house.
Mrs Beryl Rosser – **23 Murch Crescent, Dinas Powys** – Single storey rear extension to include granny annexe.
Mr Nigel Esterkin – **82-84 Holton Road, Barry** – Change of use of upper floors from offices to three self-contained residential flats.
Mr Russell Bailey – **22 Cory Crescent, Peterston Super Ely** – Rear extension and reroofing of existing flat roofed garage.
Tesco Stores Ltd. – **Tesco Stores Ltd., Marconi Avenue, Penarth** – Installation of timber cladding situated to the right of the lobby on the front store elevation.
Tesco Stores Ltd. – **Tesco Stores Ltd., Marconi Avenue, Penarth** – Various advertisements at site.
Mrs Ralph Morel – **The Stables, adjacent to The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely** – To establish the continuous use of Flat 1 within the building known as the Stable Block as a single residential dwelling – independent of, and separate to, (i.e. not ancillary to) the use and occupation of the property/residential dwelling known as The Old Rectory and/or related commercial business purposes.
Fitz Project Management – **49 Kenilworth Road, Barry** – Conversion of house in multiple occupation into four single person flats.
Miss Mark Temple – **11 Charteris Close, Penarth** – Works to existing bungalow including rear and loft extensions and solar panels to roof.
Mr I and Mrs E Ashman – **Land to the west of Craig Yr Eos Avenue, Ogmore By Sea** – Development of six dwellings with memorial garden.
Mr Tony Harris – **19 Llewellyn Street, Barry** – Erection of single storey extension on rear elevation and pitched roof on existing two storey rear elevation.
McDonald's Restaurant Ltd – **McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Reconfiguration of existing signage suite to include the retention of one height restrictor, four freestanding signs and one customer order display. The relocation of one welcome sign and the installation of two banners and one Totem sign.
Mr Mike Pycroft – **7 Melyn y Gors, Barry** – Single storey extension to side of property.
Miss Kirsten Wilcock – **120 Redlands Road, Penarth** – 1) A 9.2m x 2.4m ground floor side extension underneath existing first floor side extension; 2) A 6.4m x 4.0m single storey ground floor rear extension.
Mr Scott Browne – **6 Gerddi Margaret, Barry** – Garage conversion.
William Rees – **97 Murlande Way, Rhoose** – Two storey extension to side of property. Conversion of existing garage into living room.
Mr Phillip Atkin – **Little Pen Onn, Llancarfan** – Proposed two storey extension to existing split level bungalow. Accommodation to provide additional living space and guest suite.
Mr Michael Skinner – **60 Arcot Street, Penarth** – The conversion from a single dwelling to three flats.
Mr Mark Jones – **Crossenny, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major** – Two storey extension to existing dwelling and conservatory.
Ms Heather Booley – **137 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Make crossover and dropped kerb adjacent to 137 Westbourne Road, Penarth. A paved driveway will be made with hardstanding for two cars.
Nick Boyle – **Treguff Farm, Cowbridge** – Installation and operation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic facility (generation capacity of approximately 4.9 megawatts).

THE MAJOR'S TEN MEN GRAB ALL THREE POINTS

ON a bright breezy day Llantwit Major AFC welcomed Tredegar to Windmill Lane.

This was a must win game for the home team if they were to maintain any hope of a promotion place.

The task was made all the more difficult with the central spine of the team Gould, Pratt and Nash all missing and Tom Rees out for several weeks after picking up a bizarre training ground injury.

The starting line-up required a reshuffle which had Max Morgan into the back four and a reshaped midfield with youngsters Dawes, Griffiths and Renfree given central roles alongside the experienced Jones and veteran Lindsay.

The Major started well and had the best of the early exchanges with Dawes, Roscrow and Griffiths all going close.

The game was to take a significant twist after just 15 minutes when the referee awarded Tredegar a free kick 30 metres from goal and with the ball waiting to be played, brandished a red card at Andy Shaw which surprised both sets of players and the supporters alike.

This had Major on the back foot and required some urgent changes to the shape of the team which resulted in Renfree playing in a wide left position with Dawes providing the cover in midfield.

The home team continued to pass the ball well and to frustrate the opposition who had the advantage of the conditions.

It was to the home team's credit that they continued to play well with all nine outfield players working extremely hard and supporters arriving late to the ground didn't initially notice the home team were a man down.

The Major continued to dominate the game and the defence marshalled superbly by Robinson with great support from Morgan and Cox were getting on top and deservedly took the lead after 25 minutes when Tredegar failed to clear from a corner and Roscrow was on hand to head into the goal.

It was the least the home team deserved and the team showed tremendous spirit to hunt down and compete for every ball. It was certainly a far cry from the team which had played ten days before.

The second half started in much the same manner and despite the best efforts of the opposition it was the Major who continued to dominate proceedings.

The midfield were working overtime with Lindsay and Jones leading by example but the industry of Dawes, Griffiths and Renfree was quite superb and set a magnificent tempo for the team.

The home team extended the lead after 65 minutes when loan striker Roscrow who had also worked tirelessly for the team latched on to some poor defensive play and hit a rocket shot low into the corner of the net from 25 yards with the keeper rooted to the spot.

The home team continued to dominate the game with keeper Whitelam only exercising his vocal cords as he boomed out encouragement to the team.

As tired legs began to show, Landsdown replaced Roscrow and with only his second touch hit a superb shot from 20 yards which hit the post, flew across the goal with the keeper once again just able to watch and hope.

Cox, who had put in a solid performance, was replaced by Faux who showed his versatility for the team by going into a central defensive role and also made a valid contribution as time was being played out.

As the final whistle went it was a resounding victory for the home team which the opposition acknowledged as they left the field.

The spirit shown by the home team was excellent and Robinson was delighted with the reaction he had from the team which also does him great credit as well.

This will need to be maintained as the games will now come quickly as the season nears to a close.

The next home game is this Saturday, April 6, at home to Bettws with a 2.30pm kick off.

Squad: Whitelam, Cox, Robinson, Shaw, Morgan, Renfree. Jones, Faux, Griffiths, Roscrow. Landsdown, Lindsay (c) and Dawes. **MR**

'Tosh' achieves his target at Farmers Society meet!

Celebrating another successful day on the fairways!

COWBRIDGE solicitor Anthony 'Tosh' Taylor finally achieved a lifetime's ambition of becoming a single figure golfer following his excellent win at the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society held recently at Peterstone Lakes Golf Club sponsored by Hire One Ltd.

A magnificent birdie on the 570-yard par five 15th hole enabled the popular member to return a score of 34 stableford points. Playing off a handicap of ten, he automatically incurs a one shot reduction for the next twelve months, and now joins a select group of members whose handicap has been reduced to single figure status.

Runner-up was Griff Morgan with 32 points followed by John Davies with 31 points; Bryan Owen also with 31 points finished 4th.

Mike Lee finished in 5th place also with 31 points and was also successful in winning the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge-sponsored longest drive competition.

Nearest the pin on the par 3 holes sponsored by Llanerch Vineyard Restaurant were Reg Davies, Tosh Taylor, Geraint Davies, Mike Lee and Clive Thomas.

Scheduled to play at snow-covered Bargoed Golf Club, the society was grateful to the management at Peterstone Lakes Golf Club for hosting their monthly meeting at short notice.

However, the many deep ponds and streams associated with this well maintained parkland course proved quite a hazard for many of the 28 competitors and accounted for the majority of the 73 balls that failed to return home.

This resulted in £52 being raised for the Macmillan Nurses Charity with Tony McCarthy collecting the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25 at Cradoc Golf Club, Brecon when members will be competing for the Shrieval Trophy presented to the society by the late Mr Islwyn Rees.

Finally, many congratulations to veteran member Mr David Thomas of Old Wallace Farm, St Nicholas who recently celebrated his 87th birthday. David, is still enjoying his weekly round of golf and particularly meeting up with friends at the 19th hole.

T.McC

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08 08 FORD Focus 1.6 TDCi Estate Zetec 5-Dr (110) DPF. Grey, Diesel, FSH, 1 Owner, Air Con, Alloys, Bluetooth, CD Player, 104k.

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07 57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTi SRi (120) 3-Dr. Beige, Diesel, FSH, Air Con, Alloys, MFSW, 58k.

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07 07 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 130 Privilege 4-Dr Saloon. Red, Diesel, Auto, Full Beige Leather, Sensor, Parking Sensor, Climate Control, 6 CD Player, 41k.

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07 57 PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-Dr Estate. Black, FSH, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows, C/Locking, 87k.

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09 TOYOTA Auris 1.6 TR 3-dr. In light met blue, 35,000 miles **£6,495**

09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi 5-dr. In silver, 43,000 miles, low insurance **£5,995**

11 PEUGEOT 107 Urban Lite 1.0 3-dr in yellow, 5,000 miles, £20 road tax **£5,995**

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57 FORD Focus 1.6 Style 5-dr. In met blue, 67,000 miles with a/c **£4,995**

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GEM sport

Cappa Bleu is local hope for the National

THE Evan Williams-trained Cappa Bleu, which finished fourth in last year's Aintree spectacular, is one of the favourites for this Saturday's Aintree Grand National and, at the time of writing, is just a 12-1 chance with the bookmakers.

Evan, who came close to saddling the winner with State Of Play on more than one occasion, knows that to win the 'National' would be really something very,very special.

He said: "It would be a dream for us all to win it, that's what racing is all about, but there's no point in viewing it as a normal race because as soon as you do that, it will come back to beat you on the backside."

All horse racing enthusiasts in the Vale will be hoping that The GEM next week will be carrying a front page story about a Llancarfan farmer's son who has made turf history by becoming the trainer of the first horse trained in Wales to have won the world's greatest steeplechase since Kirkland trained in Pembrokeshire was successful in 1905.

Meanwhile, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan's former Scottish Grand National winner Beshabar is out of the race owing to injury and Tim will be relying on his Saint Are which is a 50-1 chance.

Perhaps Tim will have better luck with his Tartak who has had Friday's John Smiths Topham Chase as his target for some time.

A past winner of the Mildway Chase, when trained by Tom George, Tartak finished a good third at the recent Cheltenham National Hunt Festival meeting.

Last Wednesday, Tim sent just one horse Silentplan all the way to Wetherby and the five-year-old bay gelding, partnered by Richard Johnson, landed the Open National Hunt Flat Race by three-and-three-quarter lengths from Marrakech Trader after being made the 15-8 favourite.

Meanwhile, at Ffos Las on Thursday, Evan's Firebird Flyer, which carried top weight of 11st.12lb in the Tanners Wine Handicap Chase, proved too speedy for fifteen-year-old Victory Gunner.

Firebird Flyer was ridden by Adam Wedge and Evan said: "He ran well last time and was given half a chance by the handicapper. I was delighted with the little horse he's won three for us this season."

Evan's assistant trainer, James Tudor from Cowbridge, also had plenty to smile about.

He won the Llewellyn Humphreys Novices Hunter Chase on David Llewellyn's homebred prolific point-to-pointer Rosies Peacock.

Rosies Peacock was followed home by local point-to-pointer the grey My Fellow owned and trained by Andy Quick.

BRIAN LEE

Sun shines on racers at Llandow Kart Club

AFTER the scheduled opening round of its annual championship fell foul of the weather in February, Llandow Kart Club was back in action – and graced by the seldom-seen sun – on the third weekend of March.

Just two Bambinos were on hand to kick off the new season, but class veterans – and school classmates – Shayne Clarke and Oliver Thomas both acquitted themselves well, the former claiming a gold award and the latter a silver after both posting solid times throughout the day.

The winter break appeared to have done little to dent Cadet numbers, meanwhile, with 17 combined Honda and Comer drivers turning out for the opening round. The Honda class was dominated by another familiar name, as Ethan Ling claimed victory in each of the three heats and followed it up with another comfortable win in the final. Ross Deal and Joshua Martin claimed the other Honda podium places in the main event, with George Alp Williams and Stuart Ferguson rounding out the top five.

Comer drivers Tommy Foster and Joshua Davis led the pursuit of Ling on the road for much of the day, duelling with Max Fenlon during the heats. Able to pull clear in the final, however, the pair left Kieran Clarke to complete the podium ahead of Toby McDonald and Charlie Andrews.

On a day when 2012's frontrunners showed that they were carrying their form into the new campaign, Ben Stevens emerged with top honours in the Honda Junior class. Despite being one of three drivers excluded in heat two, the reigning champion would not be denied in the day three other races, eventually emerging a narrow winner over Cristiano Nardone in the final.

Tom Ford was classified in third place, while the weekend's 'best novice', Kristian Prosser, claimed fifth overall, behind Patrick Hill.

The top two from 2012's Junior Rotax standings were also back in action, and reigning champion Toby Allen appeared to have the upper hand over Rob Ellis after winning two of the three heats. Ellis was not about to be overshadowed, however, and came through to claim the final by just 0.58secs.

Morgan Rose, who had chased the lead pair throughout the day, and took second on the road when Allen slipped up in heat two, duly claimed the other podium spot in the final.

With just three runners, the Minimax class was combined with its bigger brother, and it was Harry Gooding who held sway, winning each time out ahead of 2012 adversaries Jodie Handford and Ceran Sokhi.

With last year's champion Ross Chell absent, Ryan Edwards stepped up to assume the mantle of Junior TKM frontrunner, although he definitely did not have things all his own way. The winner of heat one, Edwards failed to complete a lap in race two, and then suffered a frightening accident after retiring midway through the third outing.

Despite having been bowled over by another kart while heading for the safety of the marshal post, Edwards bounced back to take top spot – from the rear of he grid - in the race where it mattered most, before heading to hospital, where x-rays confirmed that he had broken his foot… Despite being voted as 'driver of the day' Joe Phillips' exclusion in the final promoted Yousuf Ashraf and Alex Thomas onto the lower steps of the podium, while heat winners Alex Rees and Louis Beaven were fifth and ninth respectively.

Disappointingly for the slim Senior Honda class, multiple champion Simon Evans showed that, once again, he was in no mood to have his near-perfect record dented by anyone, winning each of the day's four races. Veteran Paul Saunders got closest to upsetting Evans' applecart, crossing the line just 0.17secs adrift in heat two, but it was Nick Turley who ended up on the second step of the rostrum in the final, just reward for claiming second spot in the remaining heats. Saunders completed the top three.

It was a similar story in Senior Rotax, where Josh Collings warmed up for his 2013 campaign by winning three out of four races, the other going the way of Steven Handford when Collings was excluded.

The final could not have been much closer, however, with Collings raced from midfield to come out on top by a mere 0.08secs over reigning champion Matthew Dowers, while Handford followed them over the line a further 0.14secs adrift. Fourth-placed Josh Gray and fifth-placed Dilip Singh were also within a second of the winner.

RESULTS:

BAMBINO Gold Award: Shayne Clarke (Topkart) Silver Award: Oliver Thomas (Birel); CADET HONDA: 1. Ethan Ling (Project One), 2. Ross Deal (Project One), 3. Joshua Martin (Project One); CADET COMER: 1. Tommy Foster, 2. Joshua Davis (Zip), 3. Kieran Clarke (Zip)

JUNIOR HONDA: 1. Ben Stevens (7Kart), 2. Cristiano Nardone (7Kart), 3. Tom Ford (MS); JUNIOR TKM: 1. Ryan Edwards (Tonykart)

2. Yousuf Ashraf (Jade), 3. Alex Thomas (CRG); JUNIOR ROTAX: 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. Toby Allen (KT1-b), 3. Morgan Rose.

MINI MAX: 1. Harry Gooding, 2. Jodie Handford (Tonykart), 3. Ceran Sokhi (Kosmic); SENIOR HONDA: 1. Simon Evans (7Kart), 2. Nick Turley (MS), 3. Paul Saunders (7Kart).

SENIOR ROTAX: 1. Josh Collings (CRG), 2. Matthew Dowers (Tonykart), 3. Steven Handford; BEST NOVICE: Kristian Prosser (Junior Honda), DRIVER OF THE DAY: Joe Phillips (Junor TKM).

CRAIG LLEWELLYN

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, March 26, a full programme of league matches was played.

It was a good evening for the Edmondes B; while they beat the White Lion 8-1, their closest rivals Llanharry lost 4-5 to the Edmondes A.

This Edmondes A win ensured that even with the Hare & Hounds beating the Old Post Ladies 7-2 their third place lead was only reduced by 2 points.

In the other two matches the Carne Arms lost to the Farmers Arms 3-6 and the Highwayman Inn beat the Cross Inn 5-4.

Present league standings: Edmondes B (92 points), Llanharry (86), Edmondes A (73), Hare and Hounds (67), Farmers Arms (55), White Lion (52), Carne Arms (51), Highwayman Inn (45), Cross Inn (43), Old Post Ladies (39).

On April 9 a full programme of league matches is scheduled; Old Post Ladies host the Edmondes A, Farmers Arms host Llanharry, White Lion host the Hare & Hounds, Cross Inn host the Carne Arms and the Edmondes B host the Highwayman Inn.

All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

Up-to-date information can be found on the web site: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

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